ヘタコイ

hetakoi

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NAKANO JUNKO

中野純子

ヘタコイ
hetakoi
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中野純子

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ヘタコイ
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恋敵の土屋に、かつての片恋相手・島津。
二人との奇妙な同居生活が駒井家で始まった。
流香と逢って話をしたい静だったが、
メールの返事も返せずにいた。
そんな時、土屋が流香の下を訪れる…。
楽しそうに話す二人。静が目撃したものは…!!
島津への恋を描いた特別読切「カタコイ」も収録!!

ヘタコイ

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中野純子

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ヘタコイ

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★この作品はフィクションです。実在の人物・団体・事件などにはいっさい関係ありません。

CHAPTER 25
KISS

A STRANGE SCENE.

IT WAS ...

THE GIRL WHO REJECTED ME, (AND YUU AS WELL)

NAGISA SHIMAZU WHOM I HAD AN UNREQUITED LOVE.

THE GUY WHO REJECTED RUKA-SAN,

AND MY LOVE RIVAL TAKEKI TSUCHIYA.

THE FOUR OF US SITTING TOGETHER HAVING BREAKFAST ...

AND YUU WHO HAD NO IDEA ABOUT ANYTHING THAT HAS TRANSPIRED.

IF...

NONE OF MY FRIENDS LET ME STAY WITH THEM, THEN THAT MIGHT BE A GOOD BACK UP PLAN.

THIS HAS TAKEN A STRANGE TURN...

EATING LIKE THIS IT'S LIKE WE'RE A FAMILY!

TSUCCHI AND SHIMAZU-SAN SHOULD JUST STAY AND LIVE WITH US!

WHOA..!

HOLD UP! HOLD UP!

I'M IN NO MOOD TO LISTEN TO MY PARENTS' SERMONS YET.

IF I CAN'T STAY WITH A FRIEND I'LL EVEN SLEEP AT AN INTERNET CAFE IN THE MEANTIME.

WHAT DO YOU MEAN BY THAT...

WEREN'T YOU GOING BACK TO YOUR PARENTS?

IT'S FINE.

STOP ASKING SO BLUNTLY!

YOU FOOL!

WHY!? HOW COME!?

DID YOU GET KICKED OUT OF YOUR HOUSE SHIMAZU-SAN?

WHAT'S GOING ON?

I CAN'T LIVE TOGETHER WITH HIM ANYMORE.

I CAUGHT MY BOYFRIEND WHO I LIVED WITH CHEATING ON ME WITH ANOTHER WOMAN WHILE I WAS NOT HOME.

MY PARENTS ALLOWED ME TO MOVE IN WITH HIM SINCE WE WERE GOING TO GET MARRIED.

I'M TOO ASHAMED TO SEE THEM AGAIN WHEN IT HASN'T EVEN BEEN A YEAR AND IT TURNED OUT LIKE THIS...

THAT'S HORRIBLE!

JUST RID YOURSELF OF THAT ASSHOLE!!

STAY HERE SHIMAZU-SAN!

DON'T WORRY ABOUT TROUBLING US!

IT'S DANGEROUS FOR A GIRL TO STAY AT AN INTERNET CAFE ALL BY HERSELF!

STOP BEING ABSURD.

SHE CAN'T JUST STAY HERE TOGETHER WITH 3 GUYS.

IT SHOULD BE FINE, RIGHT?

I THINK IT'S MUCH SAFER THAN AN INTERNET CAFE.

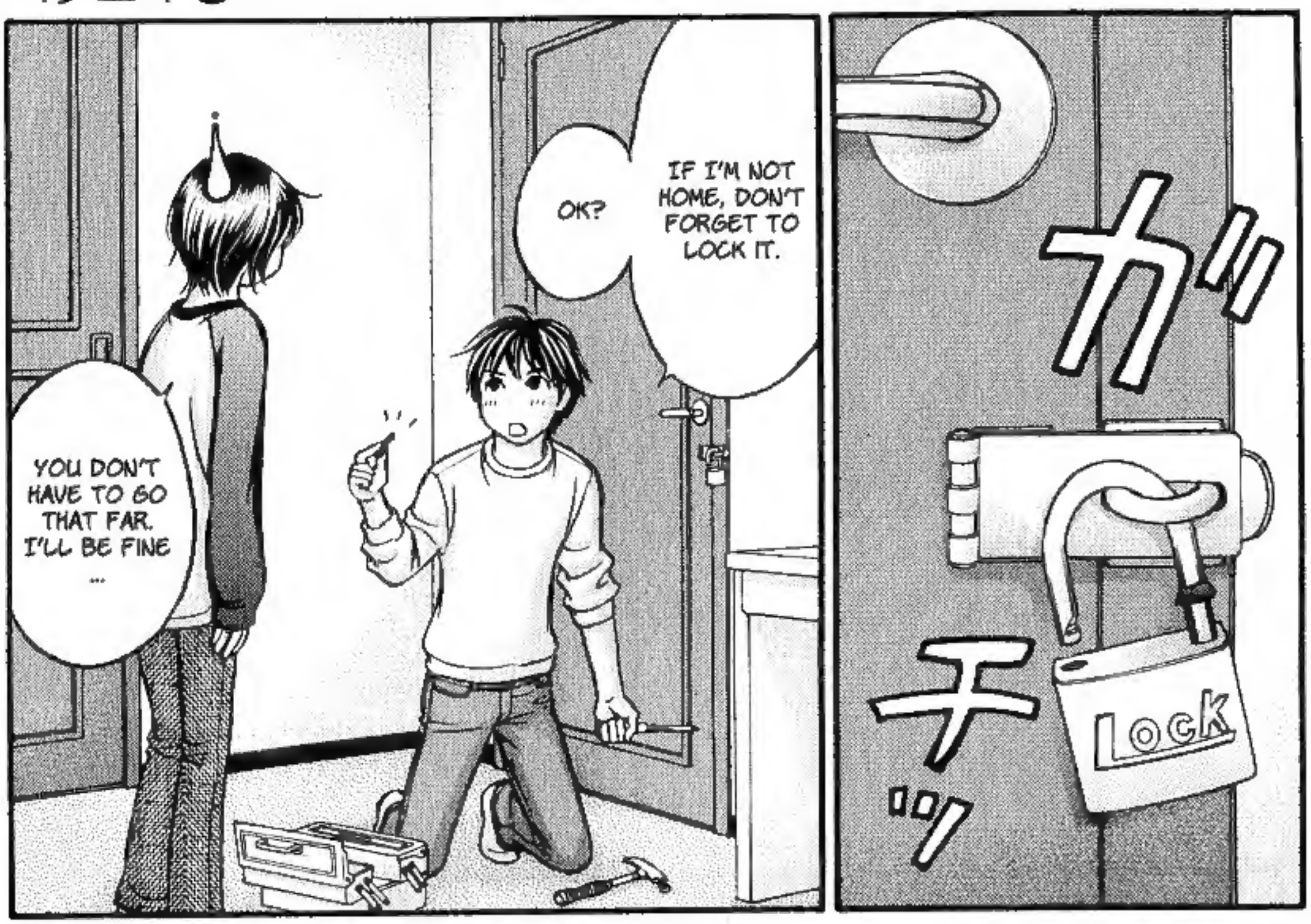
IF I KEEP AN EYE OUT FOR THE PUBLIC MORALS CHAIRMAN,

.....

I CAN MOVE IN TO MY OLD APARTMENT.

THEN IT'S SETTLED!

Alright!


YOU DON'T HAVE TO GO THAT FAR. I'LL BE FINE ...
OK?
IF I'M NOT HOME, DON'T FORGET TO LOCK IT.
カチ
Lock

I TOOK OVER YOUR ROOM..
I'M SORRY ...

YOU'VE BEEN VERY HELPFUL ...
YOU'VE GIVEN ME A PLACE TO GATHER MY THOUGHTS.
ALTHOUGH I THINK YOU ARE BEING TOO NICE,

IF THERE IS ANYTHING I CAN DO,

I WANT TO DO IT FOR HER.

OK...

THANK YOU.

THERE IS ONE PROBLEM.

BUT,

SHIMAZU WILL BE HERE A WHILE, SO IT'S NOT LIKE THE HOUSE WILL BE EMPTY.

NO MATTER HOW YOU LOOK AT IT HAVING TSUCHIYA-SAN AND SHIMAZU IN THE SAME HOUSE WILL BRING TROUBLE ...

HOW SHOULD I REPLY TO RUKA-SAN...

SUPER MARKET

OH MAN THIS IS AWESOME. ♡

LIVING TOGETHER WITH SHIAMZU-SAN UNDER THE SAME ROOF. ♡♡

AH!

BUT TSUCCHI!

I'M TELLING YOU NOW!

HOW COULD I BRING THIS IS UP...?

Please let me know when you have time to spare.

There are so many things I want to talk about with you.

I WANT TO SEE HER TOO.

I DO BUT...

SHIMAZU-SAN IS MINE!

SO HANDS OFF!

A GIRL WITH LOOKS AND A PERSONALITY,

WITH STRENGTHS AND WEAKNESSES,

AND PERHAPS FEMININE FROM HEAD TO TOE...

.....

OK, I GOT IT.

BUT SHE REALLY ISN'T MY TYPE THOUGH.

THAT SO?

THEN WHAT KIND OF GIRLS ARE YOU INTO?

I FEEL A GIRL LIKE THAT JUST WOULDN'T SUIT...

SOMEONE LIKE YOU TSUCCHI.

HOW SO?

OH, YEAH?

THAT'S SURPRISING.

680

HMM_

398

WELL TYPICALLY,

YOU TEND TO GET ATTRACTED TO A TYPE YOU HAVE NOTHING IN COMMON WITH.

HE'S CURRENTLY BUSY CHASING AFTER ANOTHER GIRL.

HE'S NOT THE TYPE WHO CAN SKILLFULLY JUGGLE TWO GIRLS.

NO NEED FOR THAT AT ALL!

SHOULDN'T YOU BE WARNING YOUR BROTHER INSTEAD?

BY NO MEANS,

YOU SHOULD TAKE KOMAI-KUN LIGHTLY.

RIGHT RIGHT.

THE STRANGE FOUR OF US LIVING TOGETHER ...

THIS IS HOW IT BEGAN.

HOW IS IT?

INDIVIDUALLY HIDING OUR FEELINGS.

JUST RIGHT!

ON THE SURFACE EVERY-THING WAS PEACEFUL ...

AND JOYFUL.

コンコン☆

SHIMA-ZU.

OUTSIDE OF HOUSE CHORES OR MEALS,

I HAVE TO GO SCHOOL.

I'LL BE BACK IN 3-4 HOURS.

SHIMAZU WOULD STAY COOPED UP IN MY ROOM.

MOTIONLESS, LOST IN HER THOUGHTS.

PERFECT I HAVE TO GO TOO.

I WAS THINKING OF GOING TO THE SEMINAR ROOM.

.....

NO.

I'M ON CLEANING DUTY AT THE CULTURAL ASSEMBLY HALL.

TABISEN MEETING?

カチャ.

OH!

SHIMAZU AS WELL I'LL TAKE YOU HALF WAY.

THEN I'LL GIVE YOU A RIDE.

I'M GOING OUT FOR A BIT.

ME TOO.

HOW ARE YOU GETTING BACK?

NOT SURE HOW LONG IT'LL TAKE SO I'LL PROBABLY STAY HERE.

GLEE CLUB

HEY NACHI IT'S BEEN A WHILE.

IS RUKA HOME?

.....

COOKING SALT

हे?

WHOA!!

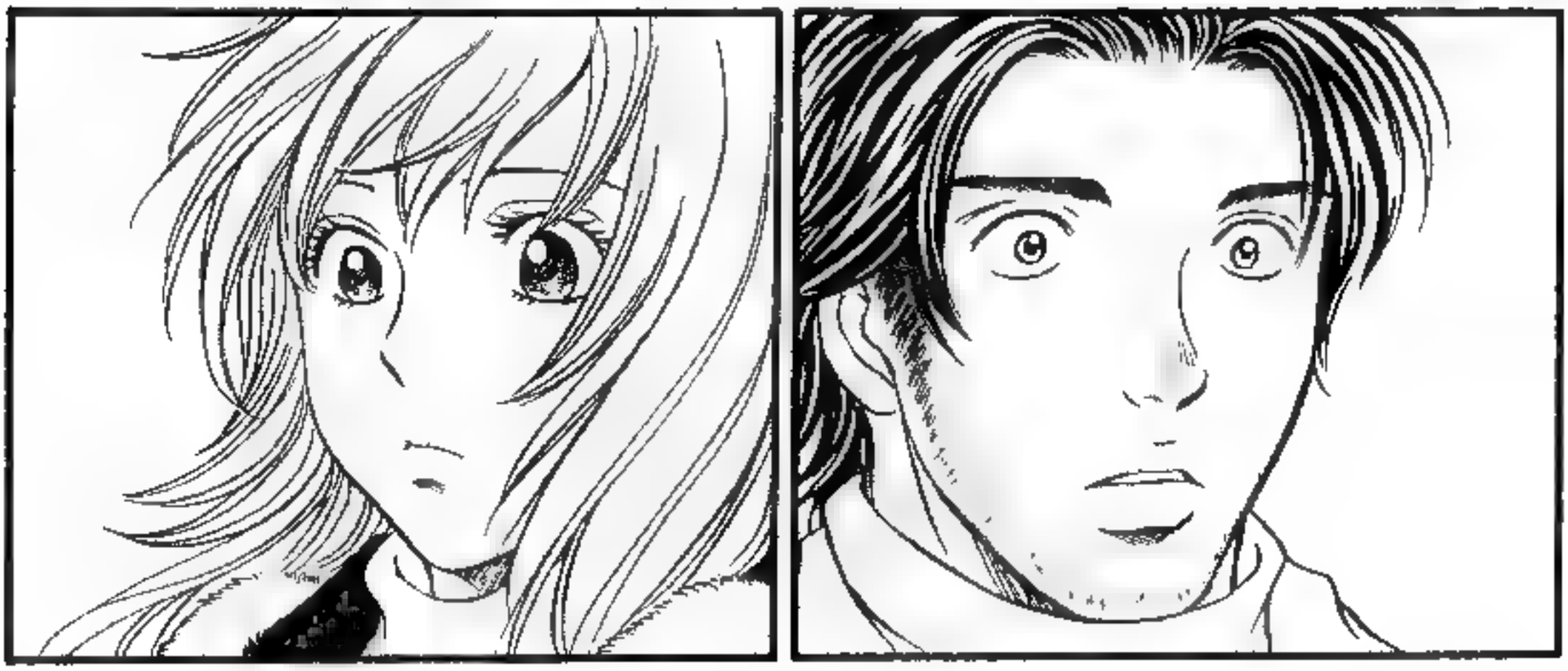
GO AWAY!!

GET OUT!

HOW DARE YOU SHOW YOUR FACE AROUND HERE!

COOKING SALT

KOMAI-KUN'S WRATH IS ONE THING.
I SUPPOSE RUKA WILL REACT THE SAME WAY...
HMM.
I DIDN'T THINK SHE'D ACTUALLY THROW SALT AT ME.



AH...

YEAH ...

SO YOU REALLY ARE BACK!

DID YOU COME TO SEE ME?

たたたっ

AHAHAHA!

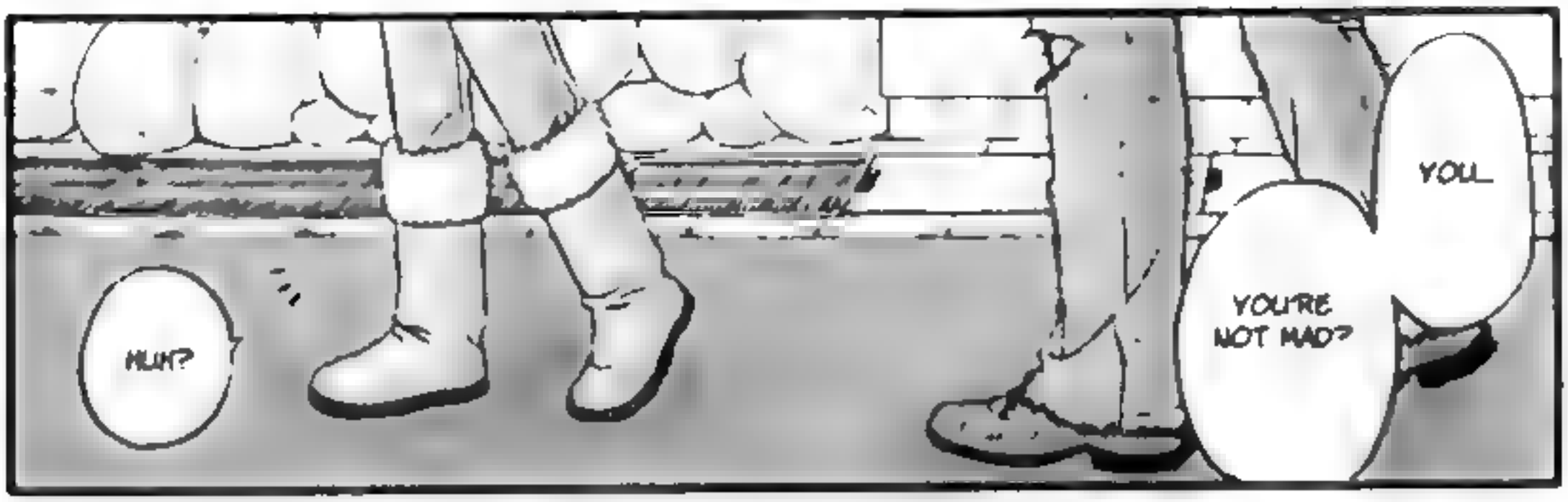
NACHI IS STILL PRETTY MAD AT YOU.

NACHI CHASED ME AWAY.

I WENT TO SEE ONE OF MY SEMINAR PROFESSORS, AND I STOPPED BY YOUR APARTMENT

THEY CARRY THE TASTE OF HAPPINESS OF WINTER IN JAPAN.
♡
.....

NOW ABOUT WE GO EAT THESE TOGETHER AT THE SCHOOL?
WHAT?
BAKED POTATOES! ♡
THEY ARE JUST BAKED AND STILL WARM.


YOU...
YOU'RE NOT MAD?
HUH?

AFTER I SAID ALL THOSE CRUEL THINGS TO YOU...

I KNOW THAT IS NOT HOW YOU REALLY FELT.

YOU SAID THOSE THINGS,

SO I WOULDN'T TRY TO COME AFTER YOU.

I UNDERSTAND THAT NOW.

AFTER YOU DO THAT, I'LL FUCK YOU ANYTIME YOU WANT.

GO LOSE YOUR VIRGINITY WITH SOMEONE ELSE.

INSTEAD OF BEING TOO CRUEL IT SOUNDED SO FAKE.

I CALMED DOWN AND THOUGHT IT THROUGH.

WELL IT WAS A SHOCK AT FIRST BUT AFTER TIME PASSED.

.....

I WAS DEPORTED IN ENGLAND.
SO I WAS FORCED TO STOP...
HOWEVER, RIGHT NOW,
WHAT'S UP WITH THAT!?
WHAT DID YOU DO!?
GIVE ME DETAILS! DETAILS!

I UNDERSTAND THAT. AND NOW IF I HAD NOT GIVEN UP...

THIS WOULD BE ALL THE MORE PAINFUL.

I CAN MEET UP WITH AN OLD FRIEND TO LAUGH AND TALK.

OH MAN, I HAVE A GROUP DATE AFTER THIS.

I HOPE THIS AROMATIC SMELL WON'T STICK TO MY CLOTHES.

PHEW!

FOR REAL!? THANK YOU!!

LET'S JUST FINISH THE SMOKING AREA.

I'LL HANDLE THE REST.

SINCE I'M HERE MIGHT AS WELL HAVE A SMOKE...

ハッ!!

ええっ!?

NO WAY...

THAT MUST HAVE BEEN SOME KIND OF MISTAKE JUST NOW!

THERE IS NO WAY SHE CAN BE HAVING THAT MUCH FUN.

TALKING TO TSUCHIYA-SAN!

HE HURT HER.

HE MADE HER CRY.

SHE LOOKS SO HAPPY...

AND YET...

BUT I GOT TO EAT A BUNCH OF GOOD STUFF, YOU KNOW?

SUPERMARKETS AND CONVENIENCE STORES THROW OUT SO MANY BOXED LUNCHES.

YOU DIDN'T HAVE TO ACT LIKE YOU WERE HOMELESS WHEN YOU CAME BACK!

OH JEEZ! THAT'S UNBELIE-VABLE!

YOU HAVEN'T CHANGED AT ALL TSUCCHI.

SOMEONE HAS TO EAT IT.

SUCH A WASTE.

THEY WILL GET IT SOMEDAY.

WHAT ABOUT YOU ANYTHING DIFFERENT?

SO_

I'M_

IN LOVE WITH SOME-ONE.

SHE'S GIVING HIM THAT EXCEP-TIONAL SMILE.

I SEE.

IS THAT WHY YOU HAVE THAT GRIN ON YOUR FACE?

HE IS A KIND, AND STRAIGHT-FORWARD GUY.

I WONDER WHAT ARE THEY TALKING ABOUT?

WHAT KIND OF GUY IS HE?

HE IS CLUMSY.

BUT HIS FEELINGS COME ACROSS CLEARLY THROUGH HIS WORDS AND ACTIONS.

HE'S USUALLY QUIET AND RESERVED.

HOWEVER HE HAS A MANLY SIDE TOO

HE IS DEPEND-ABLE.

ALSO A RELIABLE PERSON.

I SEE ...

AS I THOUGHT HE IS SO MUCH BETTER.

ALSO,

HE SAVED MY LIFE BEFORE.

WHEN I WAS DROWNING IN A LAKE,

HE JUMPED IN AFTER ME.

IT'S LIKE,

WHENEVER I'M IN TROUBLE HE'S THERE TO...

THE TIME WE SPENT TOGETHER...

IS THAT HOW MUCH SHE LOVES HIM?

...WOULD NOT MAKE HIM NULL AND VOID.

PROTECT ME.

CHAPTER 26
FRIEND

.....

SORRY...

TSUCCHI ...

YOU LOOKED SO HAPPY.

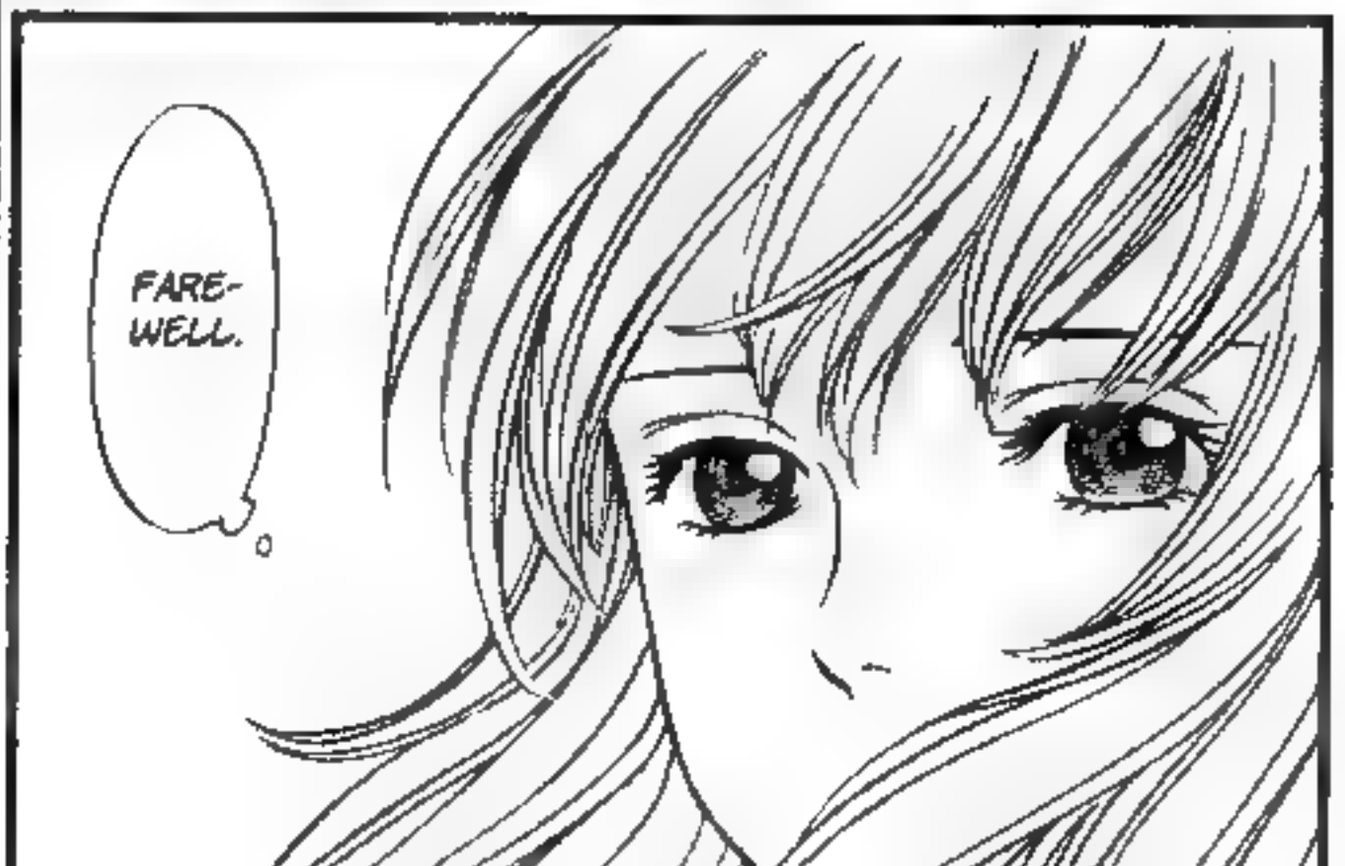
IT MADE ME A LITTLE JEALOUS.

JUST FORGET ABOUT IT.

I'M SORRY.

THE FIRST KISS FROM HIM..

...WAS A GOOD BYE KISS.



AFTER BEING REUNITED WITH THE GIRL HE LOVES...

HE'D KISS HER AT LEAST.

OF COURSE,

AND KISS.

THEY WOULD HUG,

THAT GIRL'S FEELINGS HAVEN'T CHANGED.

AND IF SHE'S THAT HAPPY TO SEE HIM AGAIN...

THERE'S NO PLACE FOR ME.

I WAS JUST WAITING FOR MY VERDICT.

THEY WOULD NEVER WANT TO LET GO AGAIN.

I'M SURE THAT'S WHAT THEY ARE THINKING.

IN AN AWKWARD APOLOGETIC WAY.

ALL THAT IS LEFT IS TO BE TOLD "I'M SORRY."

THEN MY UNREQUITED LOVE IS OVER.

STILL I CAN'T BRING MYSELF TO CRY OVER THIS.

I HAVE TO FINISH CLEANING UP.

OOPS.

I HAD PREPARED MYSELF FOR THIS WHEN I FOUND OUT TSUCHIYA-SAN STILL LOVED HER.

ｵｰﾌﾟﾝ

ｶﾁｬ・

.....

A GIFT FOR LETTING ME LEAVE EARLY FROM CLEANING DUTY

I'M GIVING YOU THIS. ♡

YOU'RE SUCH A JOKER.

I THINK YOU'LL NEED IT IN THE NEAR FUTURE, RIGHT?

♡

HEY...!

I DON'T NEED THAT!

AH!

ANYWAY JUST TAKE IT!

HEH?

YOU'LL BE READY WHEN YOU GET WITH RUKA-CHAN!

すぽっ

SHE CRIES JUST THINKING ABOUT HIM.
RUKA-SAN [illegible] EYES FOR HER TSUCCHI!
IN THE NEAR FUTURE?
HAHA
ON WHAT GROUNDS IS HE BASING THAT ON!
[illegible]

IT'S IMPOLITE TO ASK THAT, YOU KNOW?
HAHA

I ALREADY KNEW HOW SHE FELT.
THERE WAS NO NEED TO ASK.

I KNEW FROM THE BEGINNING,

HOW BIG THOSE FEELINGS WERE.

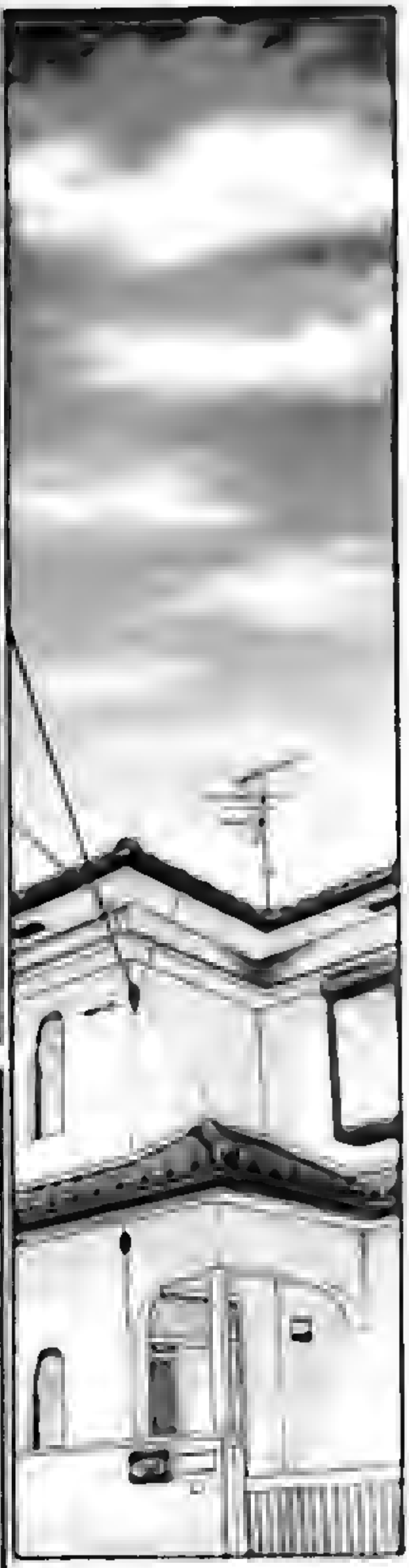
I HAD A DREAM.

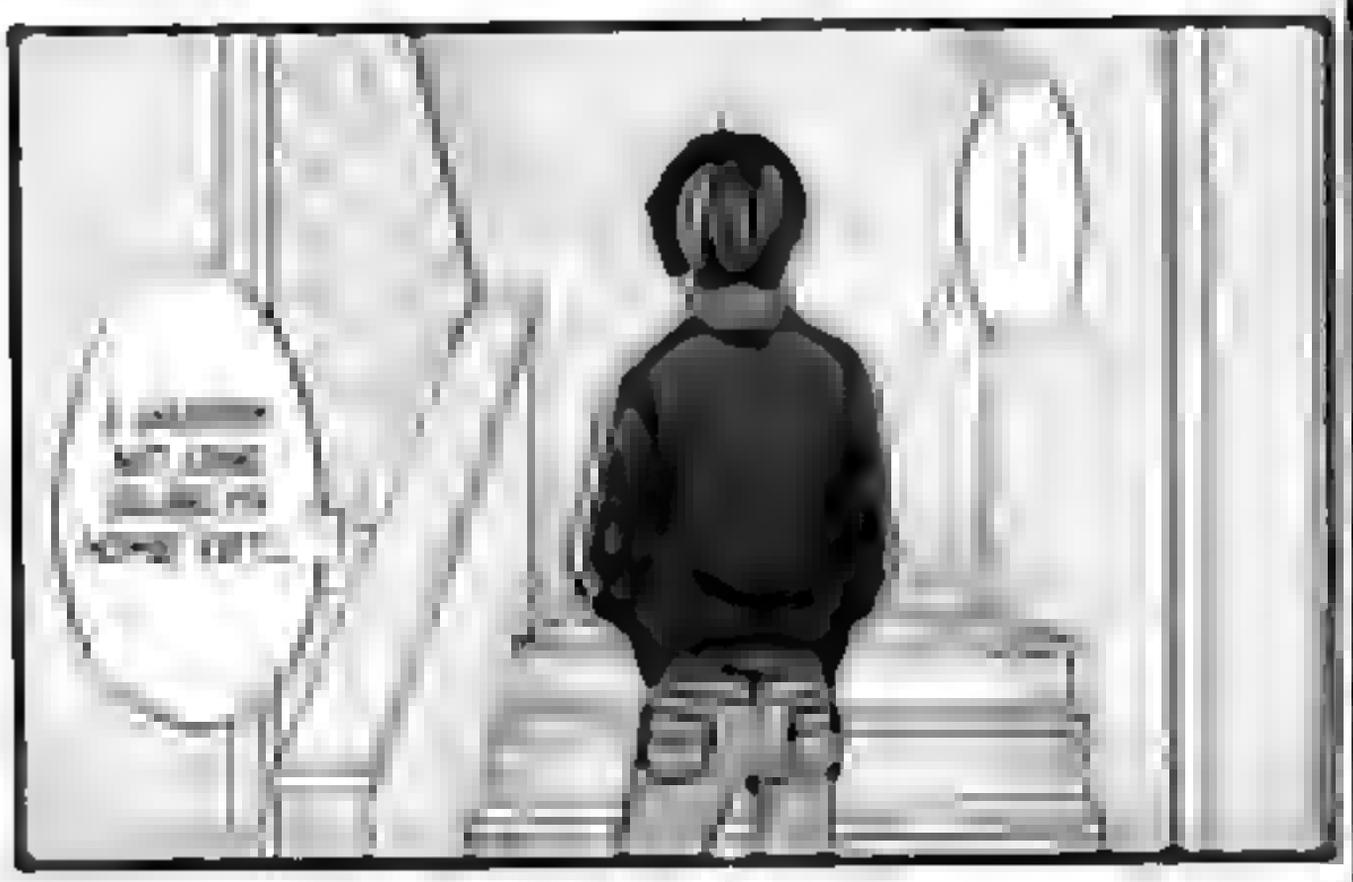
WHILE KNOWING THAT,

SWEET
DREAM
IT
WAS A
SWEET

I VAGUELY RECALLED FRAGMENTS OF THAT DREAM.

I HAVE NO OTHER PLACE TO GO TO BUT HOME.





I BROKE UP WITH MAMORU TODAY.

IT HAPPENED SO QUICK.

HE JUST SAID "I UNDER-STAND."

BUT WHEN I SAID I WAS STAYING WITH YOU...

AT FIRST HE STARTED MAKING UP ALL SORT OF EXCUSES,

WE WERE TOGETHER FOR ALMOST 3 YEARS.
AND THIS IS HOW IT ENDS?
3-1
3-7

HE'S THE ONE WHO CHEATED ON ME!
WHAT DOES HE "UNDER-STAND"?
55 MEMORIAL

I NEVER WOULD HAVE IMAGINED IT.
BACK THEN,
JUST LOOK AT MY FACE,
HOW I'M LAUGHING SO HAPPILY NEXT TO HIM.

I WONDER HOW IT CAME TO THIS...?

I WAS FOOLISHLY HAPPY WHEN WE FIRST STARTED DATING.
.....

SCREW UP SOMEWHERE...?

DID I

WHAT WENT WRONG?

WAS I [illegible]

WHILE I [illegible]

OR WAS

"WE" WE RUSHED INTO THINKING ABOUT MARRIAGE AND MOVING IN TOGETHER?

ALTHOUGH HE [illegible] ON ME,

I DON'T THINK IT'S HIS ENTIRE FAULT

I DON'T GET IT_

SHIMA ...!

I JUST DON'T GET IT...

NO MATTER HOW MUCH I THINK ABOUT IT ...

WAS I WRONG TO LOSE MYSELF THINKING WE LOVED EACH OTHER?

OR FROM THE VERY BEGINNING,

WERE WE JUST WRONG FOR EACH OTHER?

AOM

JUST ACCEPT THAT IT'S OVER.

NO OTHER CHOICE BUT TO FORGET.

THAT'S WHAT I WANT TO TELL MYSELF.

I KNOW YOU CAN'T HELP IT.

BUT THERE IS NO RIGHT ANSWER.

YEAH ...

YOU'RE RIGHT ...

THE END RESULT IS DIFFERENT THAN WHAT YOU WANTED.

THAT'S ALL.

LIKE WHEN YOU SAID, "I DON'T LIKE THAT UGLY GIRL WITH GLASSES."

GETTING MY HEART BROKEN WAS SO MUCH SIMPLER.

MIDDLE SCHOOL WAS SO MUCH BETTER.

HUH?

THEN WHAT WAS IT?

I NEVER SAID YOU WERE UGLY!

I...

I NEVER SAID THAT!

A MONKEY WITH GLASSES. huh

_SO THAT IS WHAT I LOOKED LIKE TO YOU.

MONCHICHI WITH GLASSES ...

I WAS SO SAD AND HURT.

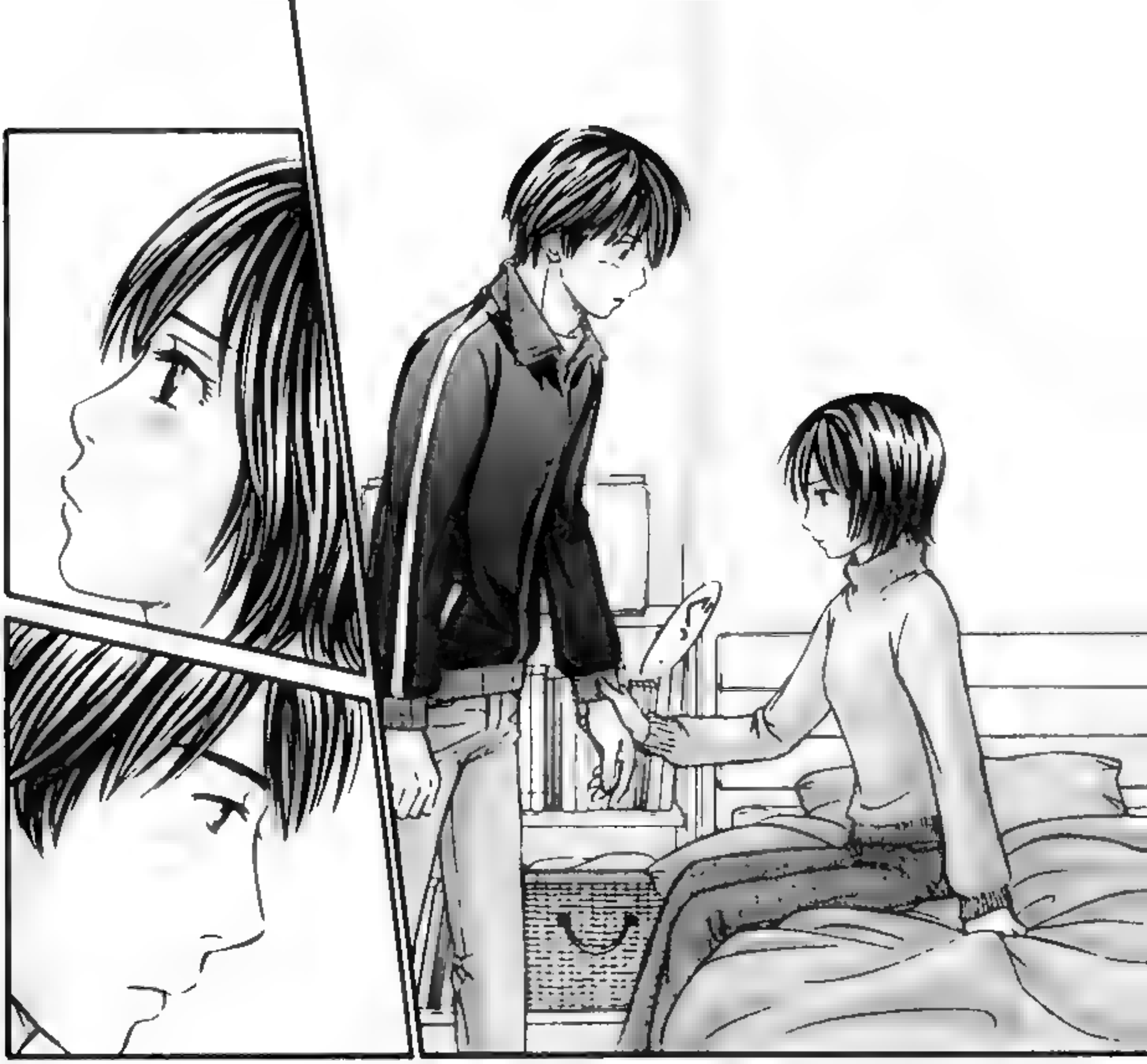
I THOUGHT I'LL DEFINITELY GET PRETTY, AND MAKE YOU LOOK AT ME AGAIN.

YOU WERE THE PRETTIEST GIRL IN OUR SCHOOL.

!

YOU WERE ALREADY PRETTY IN MIDDLE SCHOOL.

I WAS JUST SO SHY I COULDN'T TELL YOU THAT.



THAT PIECE OF SHIT!

GRRR... T-THAT!

HE COMES TO SEE YOU AGAIN NOT KNOWING WHEN TO GIVE UP, AND ON TOP OF THAT KISSES YOU!?

IT'S ALRIGHT.

I WAS NOT HAPPY AT ALL ABOUT BEING KISSED.

DOES HE PLAN ON BREAKING YOUR HEART AGAIN!!

IN FACT,

IT MADE ME SAD.

THAT WAS,

HIS WAY OF SAYING DOESN'T NEED ME AS A FRIEND

YES! THERE IS!

THERE IS NO SUCH THING AS FRIENDSHIP BETWEEN MEN AND WOMEN!

YOU STILL SAYING THAT?

AREN'T THEY...

MY COUSIN HAS BEEN BEST FRIENDS WITH A GUY FOR MORE THAN 10 YEARS!

JUST PRETENDING TO BE FRIENDS?

THE TIMING WASN'T RIGHT SO THEY COULDN'T HAVE A ROMANTIC RELATIONSHIP.

IF THE TIMING IS THERE THEY WOULD BE MORE THAN WILLING TO BECOME LOVERS.

THE "FRIENDSHIP" YOU SPEAK OF IS JUST LOOSELY KEEPING EACH OTHER AROUND.

TO ME,

I HAVE NO FEELINGS LIKE THAT TOWARDS TSUCCHI.

OF COURSE BECAUSE YOU HAVE GRANPA KOMA NOW.

……

WHERE THE TWO WERE ONCE IN LOVE. IF GIVEN THE SLIGHTEST IMPULSE THINGS WILL HAPPEN.

THAT GOES WITHOUT SAYING IN A RELATIONSHIP,

COULD YOU STOP MAKING SUCH OMINOUS EXAMPLES?

BUT,

FOR EXAMPLE WHAT IF HE DIED IN A CAR ACCIDENT?

EVEN AT A TIME LIKE THAT WOULDN'T WANT TO SEE YOU WITH TSUCCHI.

I,

IN A CORNER OF MY MIND,

DON'T WORRY

IF WE CAN'T BE FRIENDS,

THEN I WON'T SEE HIM ANYMORE.

NOTHING WILL COME FROM LICKING EACH OTHER'S WOUNDS.

STOP! DON'T RUSH INTO THIS!

THE RATIONAL PART WARNED ME.

I IGNORED THOSE WARNINGS,

I WANTED THIS "COMFORT" NO MATTER WHAT.

CHAPTER 27
FIRST TIME

I DON'T REMEMBER THE SMALL DETAILS.

AH...

IN MY HEAD,

I FOLLOWED ALONG LIKE READING INSTRUC-TIONS WITH ALL MY MIGHT.

YOU'LL BE READY WHEN YOU GET WITH RUKA-CHAN!
WHATEVER JUST TAKE IT!

MM
AH!
MMM

I DIDN'T WANT THINK OF ANYTHING ELSE.

I JUST FOCUSED ON THE PLEASURE.

I'M EXPERIENCING FOR THE FIRST TIME WITH SHIMAZU.

AFTER MY EXCITEMENT SUBSIDED,

I FELT LIKE I DESECRA-

KOMAI,

I'M SORRY.

...!

EVEN THOUGH,

YOU HAVE SOMEONE YOU'RE IN LOVE WITH.

SHIMAZU ...

ALREADY ENDED IN HEARTBREAK.

THAT,..

THEY WERE KISSING

I SAW HER AND TSUCHIYA SAN TOGETHER
TODAY AT SCHOOL.
HUH ?

YEAH
SO DON'T WORRY ABOUT ME
IS THAT SO

THIS WAS YOUR FIRST TIME RIGHT?
BUT HOW!

I CAN'T IMAGINE YOU'D LET YOUR FIRST TIME BE JUST FOR FUN.

THAT'S NOT WHAT I MEANT.

YOU SAID YOU NEVER HAD A GIRLFRIEND.

AH!

UM YEAH ...

YOU COULD TELL FROM HOW BAD I WAS?

I'M NOT SURE WHICH IS IT.

BUT CONSIDERING YOU HAD CONDOMS WITH YOU...

I'M SORRY THAT THIS IS HOW YOUR FIRST TIME HAPPENED.

YOU BEING MY FIRST IS LIKE A DREAM COME TRUE THOUGH.

A GUY'S FIRST TIME?

GUYS DON'T TEND TO BE PARTICULAR ABOUT THAT LIKE GIRLS.

THAT'S JUST HOW IT IS.

I DIDN'T THINK IT WAS A DREAM.

BEING LOOKED AT WITH EYES LIKE THAT, IT WAS SOMETHING THAT SHOULDN'T HAVE HAPPENED.

I...

I PROBABLY FUSSED OVER TOO MUCH ABOUT MY "FIRST TIME"...

IF IT WAS JUST A DREAM.

IT WOULD BE GREAT IF EVERY-THING THAT HAPPENED TODAY...

BUT BECAUSE JUST ABOUT EVERYTHING WAS A FIRST FOR BOTH OF US.

IT WAS OUR ONE OF KIND EXPERIENCE.

THAT WAS PROBABLY THE DREAM I HAD

BECAUSE "HE WAS MY FIRST",

THAT IS PROBABLY WHY I WANTED TO MARRY MAMORU.

NOT BECAUSE IT WAS MAMORU,

FROM MY "FIRST TIME" IS NEGATED ...

I FEEL LIKE ALL THE HAPPINESS...

NOW THAT IT IS OVER,

PLEASE ...

STOP OVERTHINKING AND JUST FORGET ABOUT IT.

YEAH I KNOW.

NEGA-TED...?

WE WANTED TO FORGET.

MAKE ME FORGET ...

AND I WANTED TO FORGET ABOUT HER.

SHIMAZU WANTED TO FORGET ABOUT HIM.

FORGET THE LOVE THAT JUST ENDED.

YEAH

WEL-COME BACK

I'M HOME ...

PRETTY LATE ...

YOU ARE NOT MAD?

I MEAN I BROKE CURFEW AND ALL...

ぬち

I ALREADY DRAINED THE BATH. SO IF YOU'RE GOING TO USE IT FILL IT UP YOURSELF.

YEAH ...

UM ...

ぬち

ぬち

YOU CAN GO OUT AND ENJOY YOURSELF A BIT.

YOUR EXAMS ARE OVER.

HUH?

YOU DID SAY YOU WERE GOING TO BE OUT LATE.

UNLIKE TSUCHIYA-SAN,

!

BRO YOU DIDN'T GET MY MESSAGE?

TSUCCHI SAID TONIGHT HE IS STAYING OVER AT AN UNDERCLASSMAN'S PLACE.

I LET YOU KNOW AHEAD OF TIME SO DON'T BE MAD!

HE FORGOT YOUR NUMBER SO HE CALLED ME INSTEAD

I SEE.

OK

SO THAT'S HOW IT IS.

I DID NOTHING WRONG BY SLEEPING WITH SHIMAZU.

IN THAT CASE,

I HAVE NO REASON TO FEEL GUILTY.

NO ONE WILL END UP WITH A GUILTY CONSCIENCE.

TSUCCHI
...

SHOULDN'T YOU GO BACK TO GRANPA'S PLACE?

IS IT REALLY ONLY FOR TONIGHT?

IT'LL BE A PROBLEM HAVING YOU OVER LONGER THAN THAT.

HELL NO! I'M STAYING OVER TONIGHT!

WHY ARE YOU BEING SO COLD MAN_?

CAN'T YOU BE A LITTLE MORE CONSIDERATE AFTER I JUST GOT DUMPED?

NO WAY CAN TWO GUYS LIVE HERE, GOT THAT!

A TINY ONE ROOM STUDIO WITH HALF THE SHIT YOU LEFT IN MY CARE!

MY PLACE IS TINY!

.....

WHOA ...

SOUNDS EXACTLY LIKE WHAT KOMAI-KUN SAID.

YOU HURT HER SO MUCH UP UNTIL NOW.

REMEMBER YOU DUMPED HER FIRST?

I CAN'T SYMPA-THIZE WITH YOU.

I THOUGHT THAT RUKA STILL HAD...

NOT FORGOTTEN ABOUT ME.

AFTER BEING ATTACKED LIKE THAT,

BUT WHAT THE HELL MAN!?

RUKA! HAD THAT! SHE HAD THAT ELATED SMILE!!

THEN FAWNING OVER HIM ALL LOVE-STRUCK!!

SIGH...

ヒュー!

I,

I KNOW THAT.

GRANPA,

HE IS AN EXTREMELY NICE GUY.

I KNOW THAT!

I KNOW HE'LL BE ABLE MAKE HER HAPPY.

I GET IT...

I DON'T WANT TO SEE HIS FACE.

THAT'S WHY TONIGHT,

ARGH!

IT CAME OUT ALL MESSED UP AGAIN!

.....

I FOLLOWED THE RECIPE EXACTLY AND IT ENDS UP LIKE THIS!

THIS BOOK SUCKS!

MAYBE --

IT'S IMPOSSIBLE FOR A GIRL WHO CAN'T EVEN FRY AN EGG TO SUDDENLY MAKE A CAKE, NO?

Happy Valentine's day!

コマちゃん大スキ♡

IT'S BECAUSE THE TWINS SAID THEY WERE GOING TO MAKE AND SEND GRANPA A CHOCOLATE CAKE...

WHAT'S THE POINT OF GOING AGAINST THEM?

THIS IS AN ISSUE OF MY FEELINGS!

IF IT'S FROM YOU, GRANPA KOMA WOULD CRY TEARS OF JOY EVEN IT WAS 100 CHOCOLATE BARS.

I WANT TO PACK IN ALL MY FEELINGS AND CONFESS TO HIM.

A DAY THAT'LL BE A MEMORY OF A LIFETIME...

THAT'S WHY I HAVE TO GET FIRED UP AS VALENTINE DAY IS ALMOST HERE, OK?

I WANTED TO COME UP WITH A MAGNIFICENT DATE PLAN TO CONFESS,

BUT IT LOOKS LIKE HE'S BEEN VERY BUSY LATELY

OH MY!

IT COULD TURN OUT LIKE THAT!

WHAT YOU ALREADY PLANNING TO MARRY HIM?

LIFE-TIME?

I THINK,

GRANPA IS THAT KIND OF PERSON...

SOME-HOW,

WHEN YOU GET TOGETHER I'M GOING TO FEEL LONELY.

COULD YOU BE A LITTLE MORE IND!RECT...

HE DOES SEEM THE KIND TO TAKE RESPONSIBILITY FOR POPPING A CHERRY.

YOU'RE RIGHT.

NACHI...

WHEN YOU START DATING YOU'LL BE ON HIM LIKE GLUE.

IF YOU'RE THIS LOVE STRUCK NOW,

WHAT ARE YOU SAYING!

I REALLY ENJOY OUR TRIPS TOGETHER! THAT WON'T STOP US.

I'LL BE ALONE.

THE TWO OF US PROBABLY WON'T GO ON TRIPS ANYMORE.

ON VALENTINE'S SHOULD I MAKE AN APPOINTMENT IN ADVANCE WITH HIM, OR GO OVER TO HIS PLACE TO SURPRISE HIM?

MORE IMPORTANT THAN THAT!

THIS BITCH...

Female friendship...

イライライライ

ヒルルルル♪

ヒルルルル♪

ピッピッピッ

I KNOW THE "I'M SORRY" IS COMING.

I DON'T EVEN WANT TO ANSWER ANY OF HER INCOMING CALLS.

OR EVEN LOOK AT HER MESSAGES.

ヘタコイ❺

I'M MOVING IN THIS WEEKEND.

キュッ

カチャ

THINK NOTHING OF IT...

YOU HAVE BEEN A VERY GRACIOUS HOST.

.....

THANKS.

BY NO MEANS,

YOUR COOKING WAS GREAT.

TSUCHIYA-SAN DID NOT SAY ANYTHING.

ABOUT HIM AND HER.

OR SHIMAZU AND I.

THAT'S WHY I DID NOT SAY ANYTHING EITHER.

ARE ALMOST AT AN END.

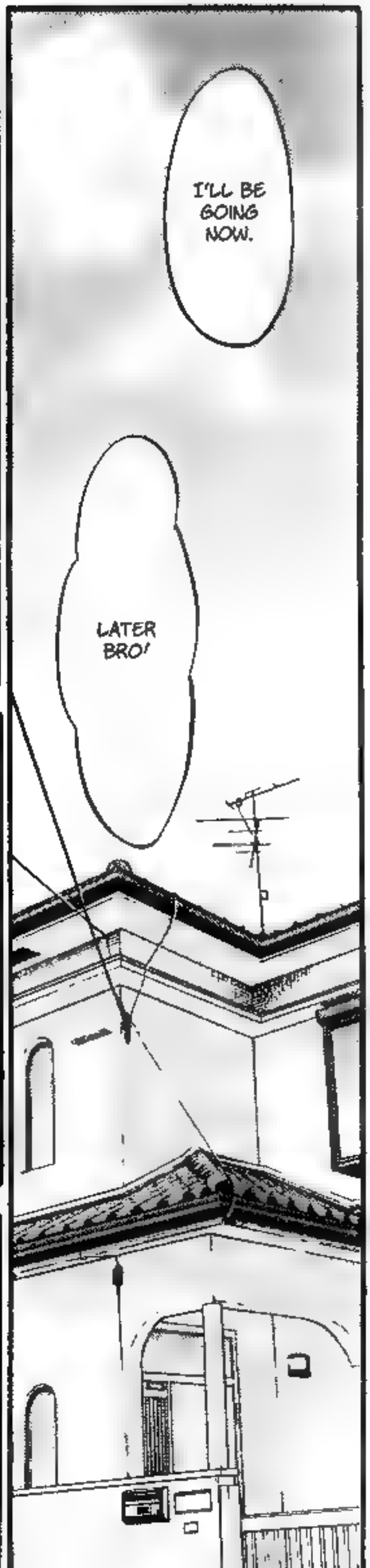
THE DAYS OF SITTING AROUND THE DINNER TABLE FEIGNING IGNORANCE ...

I HAVE TO GET GOING TOO.

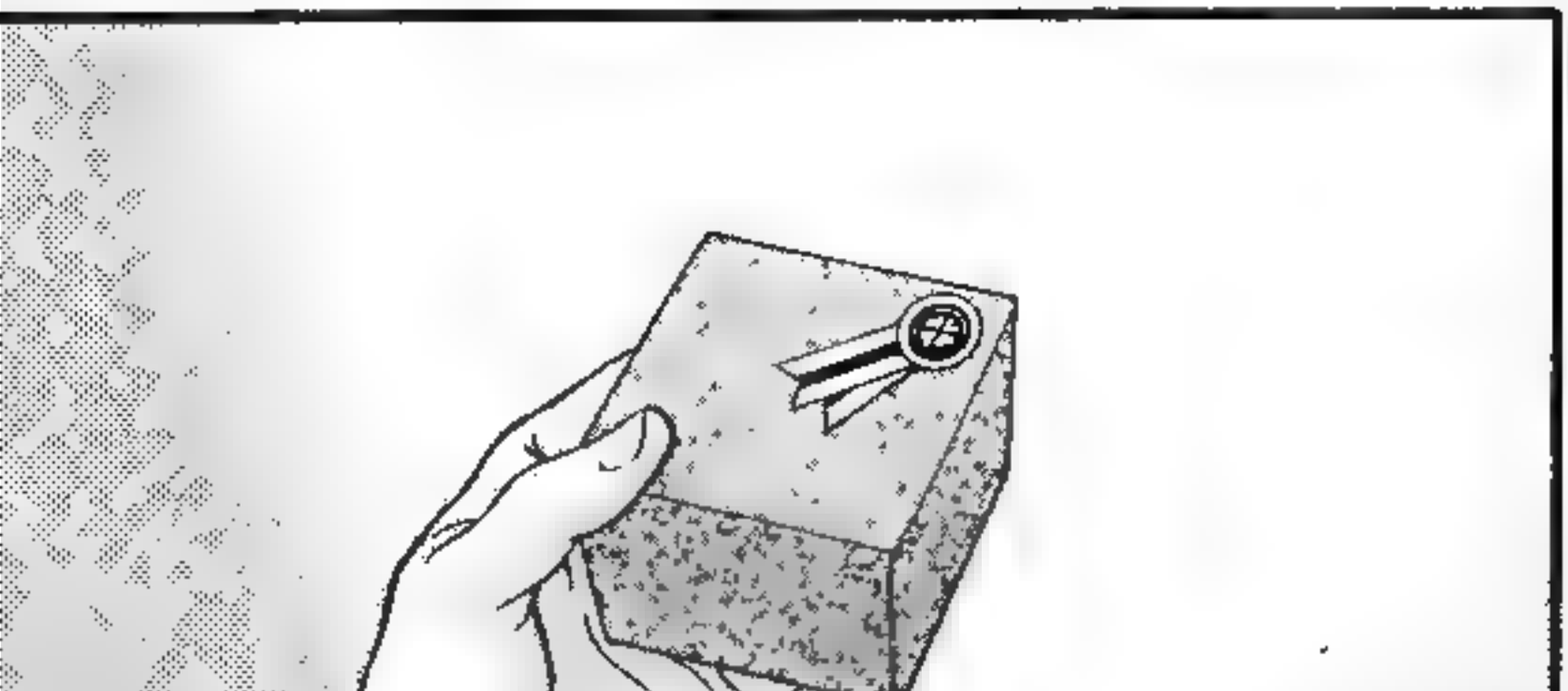
OOPS!

I HAVE WORK SO I HAVE TO GET GOING.

THANKS FOR THE MEAL.


I'LL BE GOING NOW.
LATER BRO!

?



FOR THE TIME BEING,

I FIGURED I SHOULD GIVE YOU ONE.

.....

IS THIS FOR VALENTINE'S DAY?

AH!

UH YEA...

I MEAN HOW COULD YOU FORGET IT WAS TODAY..?

UMM ...

SO NORMALLY I DON'T EXPECT TO GET ANYTHING.

IT'S ALWAYS BEEN A COMPLETELY UNRELATED EVENT TO ME.

WELL ...

I'M REALLY HAPPY.

THANK YOU.

WELL THEN,

I'LL BE WAITING IN YOUR ROOM.

OK_

WHEN WE WERE ALONE TOGETHER,

IT WAS COMMON FOR US TO SLEEP TOGETHER.

SLEEP TOGETHER AS MANY TIMES AS IT TAKES TO QUICKLY FILL IN THE HOLES IN OUR HEARTS.

OH YEAH —

WAIT!

DIDN'T YOU RUN OUT OF CONDOMS?

OK HURRY UP

REGRETTING THE SHORT TIME TOGE-THER.

I'LL GO BUY SOME RIGHT NOW

たたたた

(ピキ)

(ピキ)

SFX-
HEARTBEATS

I ENDED UP COMING OVER WITHOUT HIM CONTACTING ME BACK...

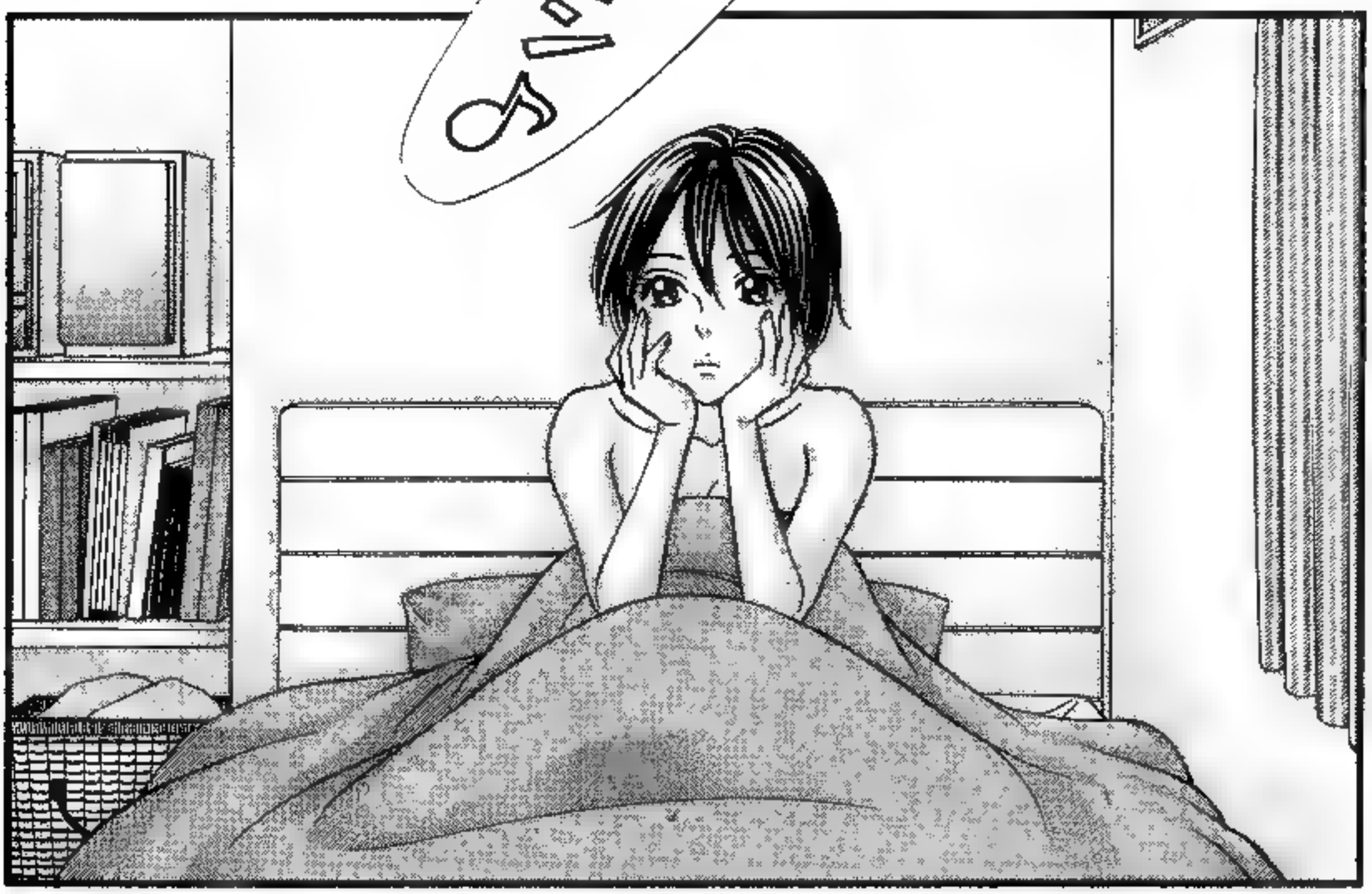
I HOPE YOU'RE HOME!

PLEASE...

ピーポピーポ

CHAPTER 28
GIRLFRIEND

ヘタコイ



I'll ring it one last time.

I GUESS HE'S NOT HOME...

ピンポン

ピンポン

ピンポン

SFX- HEARTBEATS

ドキドキ

.....

IT COULDN'T BE THAT HE REALLY IS HOSPITALIZED BECAUSE OF A CAR ACCIDENT...?

WHAT IN THE WORLD COULD IT BE THAT HE CAN'T EVEN REPLY TO MY MESSAGES...

NOPE ...

I GUESS NOT...

YES...?

AH...!

駒井

A WOMAN'S VOICE!?

IS IT HIS MOTHER...!?

か――――…?

HE-

I-I'M...

HELLO!

駒井

A MEMBER FROM THE TRAVEL AND HOT SPRINGS ENTHUSIASTS CLUB AS SHIZUKA-SAN. MY NAME IS RUKA SHINOHARA... UM IS SHIZUKA-SAN HOME AT THE MOMENT...!

BUT HE SAID HIS PARENTS WERE OVERSEAS!?

PLEASE WAIT A MINUTE..

……

駒井

!

カチャ…

RUKA... SAN?

WHO...

IS THIS BEAUTIFUL GIRL...?

KOMAI SHOULD BE COMING BACK SOON.

WOULD YOU LIKE TO WAIT INSIDE?

Y-YES!

DID SHE CALL HIM "KOMAI" JUST NOW ...?

.....

HUH?

N-NO THAT'S FINE!

I'LL WAIT RIGHT HERE. DON'T MIND ME.

BESIDES THAT, I FEEL LIKE SHE'S STARING ME DOWN...

SHE SEEMS LIKE SHE'S CLOSE TO HIM, BUT I WONDER IF SHE'S ONE OF HIS RELATIVES?

AH!

GRANPA!

LIAL...

RUKA-SAN...

WHY IS SHE AT MY HOUSE...!?

YOUR SHOPPING BAG.

YOU SHOULD PICK UP ...

.....

は、

ハナ!!
GRAN...
PA_
OK_
I'LL TAKE THAT.
I,
KOMAI.

IT'S OK.
I DIDN'T TELL HER ANYTHING.
ピーター
SHIMAZU ...
……
WELL ...
WHY_
ARE YOU HERE...

SO THAT TIME HAS FINALLY COME...

I'M SORRY FOR SHOWING UP ALL THE SUDDEN.

I JUST HAVEN'T BEEN ABLE TO GET IN CONTACT WITH YOU.

SO I WAS WORRIED...

ヘタコイ❺

COULD IT BE...

BUT,

I'M RELIEVED THAT YOU ARE NOT HURT OR SICK

.....!

HASN'T MADE UP HER MIND ...?

I'M SORRY.

I'VE JUST BEEN SO BUSY_

THAT SHE STILL...

LOOKS LIKE YOU HAVE VISITORS TODAY AS WELL_

SEEMS LIKE IT

AFTER I SLEPT WITH SHIMAZU SO MANY TIMES.

HOW COULD I THINK OF SUCH A SELFISH THING NOW?

IT'S BECAUSE SHE STILL PROBABLY WANTS ME.

I WAS REALLY SURPRISED JUST NOW.

I THOUGHT THAT WAS YOUR MOTHER'S VOICE, BUT THEN THAT BEAUTIFUL GIRL CAME OUT.

BUT THAT CAN'T BE THE CASE THOUGH.

SHIMAZU ...

SHE'S MY "GIRLFRIEND."

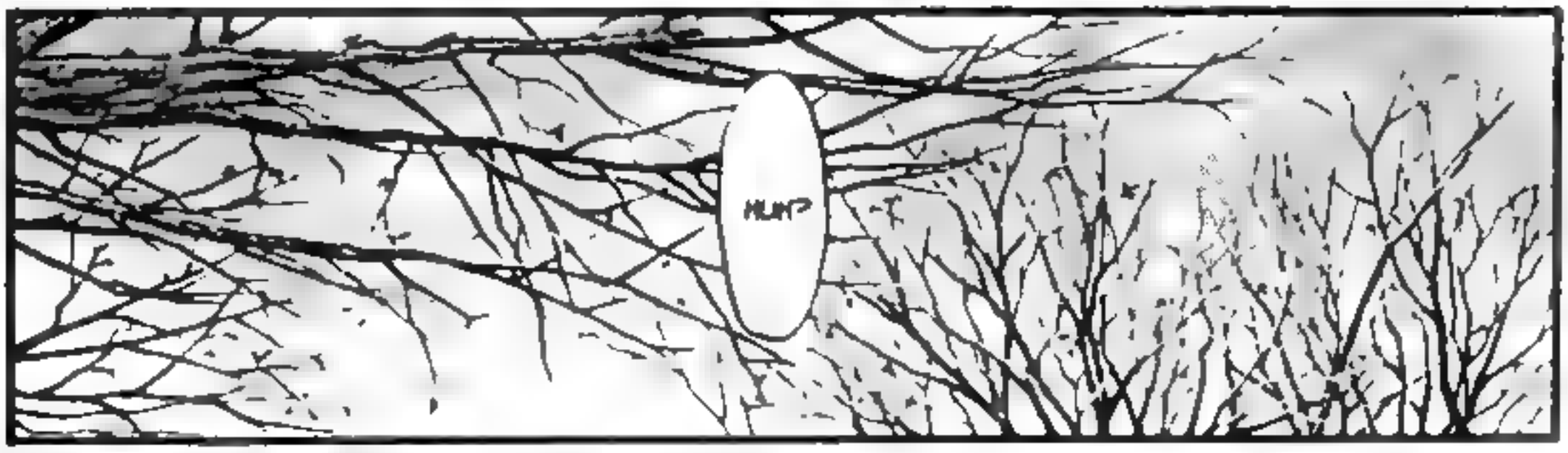
THAT WAS...

SHIMAZU A CLASSMATE FROM MIDDLE SCHOOL...

OH I SEE!

YOU'RE HAVING A GET TOGETHER WITH YOUR CLASSMATES.

NO...


HUH?

REPEAT THAT AGAIN -?

I'M SORRY
I DON'T THINK I HEARD YOU RIGHT

I MEAN YOU HAVE TSUCHIYA-SAN, RIGHT?

SO I HAVE NO CHOICE BUT TO BACK OFF.

SHIMAZU AND I ARE DATING.

ANYTHING WRONG WITH THAT?

!

THE TWO OF YOU TOGETHER.

EVEN FROM AFAR,

YOU LOOKED SO HAPPY.

SO I HAVE NO OTHER CHOICE BUT TO BACK DOWN RIGHT?

ENJOYING A GOOD LAUGH...

AND A KISS...

I'LL BE ALRIGHT.

I HAVE SHIMAZU THERE FOR ME.

.....

BUT,

SO DON'T WORRY ABOUT ME, OK?

AND BE HAPPY WITH TSUCHIYA-SAN.

I DIDN'T LET HER SAY "I'M SORRY".

IT WAS THE TINY BIT OF PRIDE LEFT AFTER NOT BEING CHOSEN.

I'M HOME

……

SO WHAT DO RUKA SAN SAY?

SHE SAID YOU ARE BEAUTIFUL.

.....

I TOLD HER YOU ARE MY GIRLFRIEND

.....!

IF_

YOU'RE OKAY WITH THAT KOMAL_

IS IT OKAY TO THINK THAT?

SHIMA-ZU.

I LOVE YOU

YEAH

BUT NOT THE TRUTH EITHER.

IT'S NOT A LIE.

FOR NOW ...

IT'S NOT ABOUT BEING OKAY WITH IT OR NOT,

RIGHT OR WRONG ...

I NEED SHIMAZU.

FROM NOW ON,

ONLY HER.

I-I'M ...

CU...

I'M ...

CUM-MING!

AH...

LOOK ONLY AT HER.

.....!

THINK OF ONLY HER.

ピンポーン

ピンポーン

KOMAI-SAN.

I'M FROM COOL DELIVERIES.

HOW COME!? IT'S STILL EARLY!!

WHAT THE...!

DID ONE OF THEM COME BACK ALREADY!?

恋するLOVE R²

1ページ！

……

YOU'RE PRETTY POPULAR KOMA!

ぽっ

THIS IS A DIFFERENT KIND OF POPULAR...

WOW... IS THIS HOMEMADE!?

MOST LIKELY ...

ドーン

RUKA-SAN AS WELL.

I THINK SHE WAS HERE TO GIVE IT TO YOU.

BUT I'M CERTAINLY DOING WELL.

I GOT ONE FROM SHIMAZU AS WELL.

SINCE SHE HAD A BIG BAG WITH HER

THAT CAN'T BE...

IT WAS PROBABLY SOUVENIRS FROM HER RECENT TRIP.

I'M HOME!

SO HOW IT GO? DID YOU TWO SCREW?

EH

HUH?

HE WAS.

I SAW HIM.

SO HE WASN'T HOME.

THE HELL.

BUT IT WAS NO GOOD.

I GOT REJECTED.

HUH?

WHA!?

HE SAW ME AND TSUCCHI TOGETHER.

THAT KISS WAS A SURPRISE ATTACK FROM TSUCCHI!

AND HE DUMPED YOU JUST BECAUSE OF THAT!?

EVEN WHEN HE KISSED ME.

THERE WAS NO WAY YOU COULD HAVE RESISTED!

HOW COULD I...

DID YOU EXPLAIN THAT TO HIM?

THERE WAS NO WAY I COULD TELL HIM THAT!

DID YOU TELL HIM, THAT HE IS THE ONE YOU LOVE!?

IS ALREADY SEEING ANOTHER GIRL...!

GRANPA...

HE TOLD ME, HE HAS A GIRLFRIEND ...!

.....

I COULD TELL HIM "I LOVE YOU"...

THERE'S NO WAY,

YOU THINK GRANPA KOMA COULD LAND A GIRL THAT FAST?

HE WAS OBVIOUSLY LYING TRYING TO ACT TOUGH.

STUPID?

ARE YOU..

I SAW HER.

HE'S NOT LYING ...

SHE WAS REALLY BEAUTIFUL.

JUST REMEMBERING HER FACE WHEN SHE LOOKED AT ME,

I KNEW IT WASN'T A LIE...

I CAN'T DO THAT.

SO THEN... STEAL HIM BACK?

SHE'S KNOWN HIM MUCH LONGER THAN ME.

IT FELT LIKE SHE'S PRETTY CLOSE TO HIM...

SHE WAS SO BEAUTIFUL...

SHE WAS ....

SO...

IT'S ... ALL OVER...

THAT DAY,

IT BECAME THE MOST BITTER MEMORY IN MY WHOLE LIFE...

THE BITTERNESS OF THE CHOCOLATE SHIMAZU GAVE ME...

CHAPTER 29
CONCEDE

YAY!
♡

SO DOES THIS VIEW!
♡

THIS WEATHER ROCKS!
♡

しょ——————んぼり…

KOMA-CHAN ENDS UP CATCHING A COLD AND CAN'T PARTICIPATE...

WE FINALLY WENT ON ANOTHER TRIP_

NOW THAT ...

HOW LONG ARE YOU GOING TO KEEP MAKING THOSE SAD FACES?

HEY YOU TWO!

THIS TRIP IS A FAREWELL PARTY FOR THE SENIORS! GRANPA KOMA ISN'T THE MAIN FOCUS!

YEAH!

IT'S THE SAME KIND OF DISAPPOINTMENT AS HAVING A SHORT CAKE WITHOUT THE STRAWBERRIES...

STOP IT NACHI.

THAT IS...

THERE ARE SO MANY THINGS I WANTED TO TELL HIM

WELL I'M DISAPPOINTED TOO.

WE DIDN'T END UP TOGETHER,

THAT IS NOT "I WON'T DO ANY MEDDLING."

THAT'S WHAT?

BUT HE IS PART OF TABISEN.

AND I WANT HIM TO STAY AS A MEMBER OF THE CLUB.

BUT,

DO YOU THINK HE HAS ANY INTENTION OF STAYING_?

OKAY FUTURE PRESIDENT.

SO DON'T SAY ANYTHING THAT WILL CAUSE HIM TO LEAVE OK!

.....

TO OTHER MEMBERS AS WELL!

I KEPT THINKING I DIDN'T WANT TO GO SO MUCH I GOT SICK.

WHAT AM I A GRADE SCHOOLER...?

THE DAY OF THE TABISEN FAREWELL PARTY,

I END UP WITH A FEVER OF 38.5°C.

I WONDER IF RIGHT NOW THEY ARE ALL IN THE OPEN AIR BATHS.

TABI-SEN ...

WHAT WILL I DO NOW ...

ガラッ

HOW'S YOUR CONDI-TION?

KOMA!

I'M FEELING BETTER.

LET ME TAKE YOUR TEMPERATURE AGAIN.

I'D LIKE NOT TO ATTEND THE CLASS REUNION AS WELL...

AT A TIME LIKE THIS...

BUT I'M SORRY.

TODAY IS ALSO OUR MIDDLE SCHOOL CLASS REUNION.

YOU CAN'T HELP IT.

YOU'RE THE ORGANIZER AFTER ALL.

YUU IS HELPING TSUCHIYA-SAN MOVE IN.

TSUCHIYA-SAN IS MOVING BACK TO HIS OLD APARTMENT.

TONIGHT MIGHT BE AN ALL-NIGHTER FOR ME,

BUT YUU-KUN SHOULD BE BACK BY EVENING.

HE'S GOING BACK TO BE BY HER SIDE.

I'M SURE THIS IS FOR THE BEST...

FOR HER AND FOR ME...

BYE.

I NEED TO GET GOING.

A HAPPY ENDING TOGETHER WITH OUR FORMER LOVES.

ALL IS WELL THAT ENDS WELL ...

RUKA-

CHAN!
♡

WHAT THE HELL IS YOUR PROBLEM ALL THE SUDDEN!

SHUT THE HELL UP YOU SEXUAL HARASSING BASTARD!

ｹﾟ"ｼ｡

GETTING ALL LOVEY DOVEY WITH GRANPA FOLLOWED BY SEXY TIME...

HUH?

DON'T BRING THAT UP EVER AGAIN!

WHAT'S WRONG RUKA?

YOU'VE BEEN PRETTY QUIET ALL DAY.

COME HERE!

HEY!

WHAT ARE YOU DOING?

A WHILE AGO IT REALLY GOT TO ME.

I WAS UP UNTIL MORNING WITH TSUCCHI WHILE HE DROWNED HIS SORROW IN BOOZE.

REALLY?

I'M JUST A LITTLE DRUNK

THAT'S NOT TRUE.

IT WAS JUST FOR THAT ONE NIGHT

BY NOW HE SHOULD BE BACK IN HIS OLD APARTMENT THOUGH.

NOPE.

TSUCCHI WAS STAYING OVER YOUR PLACE?

.....

IT WOULD HAVE BEEN HARD TO KEEP MOOCHING OFF GRANPA

EVEN FOR TSUCCHI.

WHEN HE CAME BACK TO TOKYO, GRANPA FOUND HIM IN THE CLUB ROOM..

YOU HADN'T HEARD?

YEAH...

TSUCCHI WAS STAYING WITH GRANPA..

DID I SAY SOMETHING BAD?

...IT ALL MAKES SENSE NOW.

NO...

YOU HAVE LOOSE LIPS AND CAN'T BE TRUSTED.

DON'T BE RIDICULOUS! YOU'RE ASKING ME TO KEEP QUIET WITH NO EXPLANATION!

I CAN'T ACCEPT THAT!

THAT'S ALL I'LL TELL YOU.

BUT IT'S OVER BETWEEN RUKA AND GRANPA KOMA.

IT'S LIKE ALTHOUGH YOU ARE POPULAR YOU HAVE NO LUCK WITH MEN.

RUKA.

YOU HAVE BAD TIMING WITH GUYS.

YOUR TIME TO GET TOGETHER RAN OUT ON YOU.

THEY WERE BOTH HEAD OVER HEELS FOR YOU, AND IT JUST DIDN'T WORK OUT.

GRANPA AND TSUCCHI.

ERR WELL... TSUCCHI IS ONE THING.

BUT YOU MADE GRANPA WAIT TOO LONG.

SO YOU'RE SAYING I GOT WHAT I DESERVED ...?

CLOSE WITH —

MY DESIRES …

YOU TEND TO OVERTHINK TOO MUCH.

AT TIMES YOU NEED TO MOVE CLOSE WITH YOUR DESIRES AS WELL.

Y-YOU…!

YOU'RE EXTREMELY DRUNK…

ん？！

SO YOU'RE SAYING I SHOULD HAVE JUST PUSHED GRANPA DOWN?

SO SHE REALLY IS A VIRGIN…

EVEN IF I HAVE NO EXPERIENCE …

ヒソ-ヒソ-

YOU THINK I CAN STILL PUSH HIM DOWN RIGHT NOW?

HEY …!

YOU ARE —

HUH?

OH.

WELCOME BACK

AFTER ALL THIS TIME,

TELL ME WHAT I SHOULD DO....

NO!

STAY IN BED FOR AT LEAST HALF DAY!

ARE YOU WELL ENOUGH TO BE GETTING UP?

YUP!

MY FEVER IS DOWN, AND I'M BORED

NOPE... WE WENT TO A KARAOKE BAR AFTER FOR A BIT...

YOU DIDN'T GET ANY SLEEP?

I'M GOING TO SLEEP MYSELF...

THEN LET'S SLEEP TOGETHER.

NOT THAT! JUST SLEEP!

NO...!

YUU WENT OUT SO I'LL HAVE NO ONE TO TALK TO.

T-THAT'S A LITTLE...

NO MATTER HOW MUCH, DOING THAT IN YOUR PARENTS' BEDROOM IS JUST...

.....

JUST SLEEP NEXT TO ME THAT IS ALL...

MY FIRST LOVER IS...

ALRIGHT FINE...

OH JEEZ...

NAH...

WAS EVERYONE SURPRISED BY HOW PRETTY YOU'VE BECOME?

THE PERSON I FIRST CONFESSED TO.

IN OTHER WORDS MY FIRST LOVE.

I MEAN ALL THE GIRLS GOT PRETTY AS WELL.

OR HOW YOU USED TO PRACTICED TYING RUBBER BANDS IN YOUR MOUTH.

I ALSO HEARD HOW ON THE NIGHT OF THE SCHOOL TRIP YOU WERE TELLING SEX STORIES.

MORO..!

I ALSO HEARD MANY OTHER STORIES. ♡

ぅぅ

WE SHARED SO MANY MEMORIES,

FROM SENIOR YEAR IN MIDDLE SCHOOL TO SENIOR YEAR OF HIGH SCHOOL.

ぅぅ

OH YEAH!

YOU CAME UP IN OUR CONVERSATIONS AS WELL.

"AMONG EVERYONE IN THE CLASS, HE WAS DEFINITELY THE MOST MOROSE."

NO.

IF I HAD THEN ALL THESE REVELATIONS ABOUT YOU WOULD HAVE STOPPED.

SO...

DID YOU TELL THEM WE'RE DATING NOW?

YOU'RE A TERRIBLE PERSON SHIMAZU.

DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT.

THEY ARE ADORABLE MEMORIES OF AN INNOCENT ADOLESCENCE.

I KNOW YOU'RE A LITTLE FRISKY WITHOUT HAVING TO ASK, KOMAI.

TAKU (CUT)

ふぅ

HUH?

NOT EVEN ONE KISS?

I SAID NOT HERE, RIGHT!

HEY!

.....

NO BECAUSE I'LL GET ME IN THE MOOD

I SAID —

KOMA...!

FOR 3 YEARS.

SHE IS THE GIRL I HAD FEELINGS FOR.

I DON'T DESIRE ANYONE ELSE BESIDES SHIMAZU AS MY LOVER.

BRO!

LISTEN TO THIS!

I'M FINE WITH THIS.

!!

TONIGHT'S EVENT HAD A LAST MINUTE CANCEL...

(u

MY BAD

OH

YUU!

WAIT ..!

YOU'RE NOT GOING AFTER HIM?

.....

KOHAL_

IT'S FINE.

HE WAS GOING TO FIND OUT EVENTUALLY.

LIKE THIS ...

IT'S FINE...

I'M GOING BACK HOME.

EVEN IF HE DIDN'T FIND OUT THAT WAS MY PLAN.

I WAS GOING TO GO BACK AFTER THE REUNION.

HUH?

IT IS SOMETHING I CAN'T DAWDLE ON AND NEED TO TAKE CARE OF.

I ALSO WANT TO MAKE IT CLEAR TO THEM I'M DATING YOU NOW.

THANK YOU FOR EVERYTHING.

ONE...

BY ONE ...

THEY GO BACK TO THE PLACE,

WHERE THEY BELONG ....

AAAHN!

AHN!

PLEASE ...

STOP TEASING ME PUT IT IN DEEPER ...

GIVE ME ALL OF IT...!

♪ピーンコーン♪

♪ピーンコーン♪

♪ピーンコーン♪

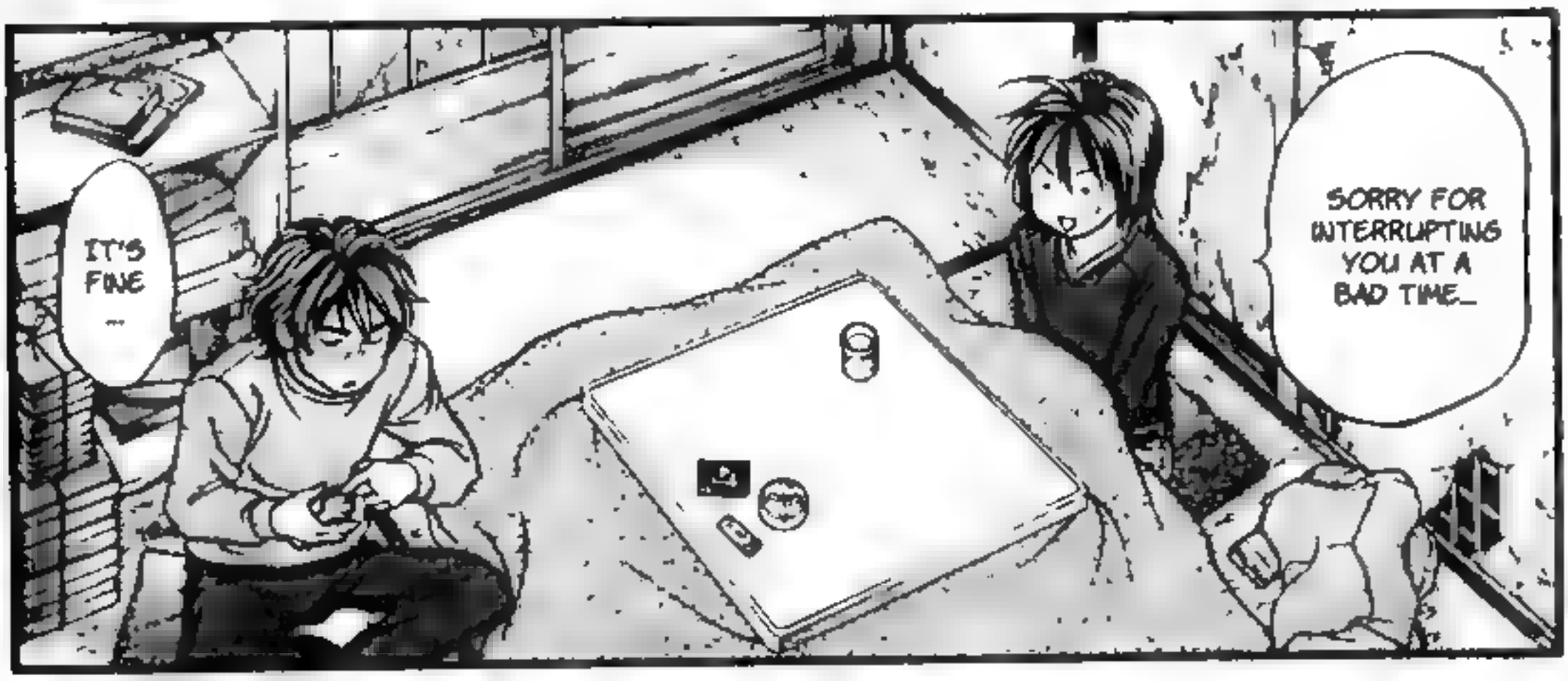
♪ピーンコーン♪

IGNORE IT...

IGNORE IT...

.....

TSUCCHI! ARE YOU IN THERE!? COME ON OPEN UP!!
YUU?


IT'S FINE ...
SORRY FOR INTERRUPTING YOU AT A BAD TIME_

.....
WHAT SO SHE'S JUST A SEX FRIEND?
SHE'S JUST A FRIEND WHEN WE ARE BOTH IN TIME OF NEED
WOW, YOU ALREADY GOT A GIRLFRIEND!

YOU'RE ONE TO TALK
AREN'T YOU PRETTY POPULAR?
TCH!
EVERYONE IS LIKE THAT
ADULTS ARE SO LEWD

BUT THAT NEVER LASTS LONG THOUGH
IS THAT SO?
I ONLY DO THAT WITH THE GIRL I LIKE THE MOST

EH?
I'M FINE WITH TSUKOMI BEING LIKE THAT
BUT I THOUGHT MY BROTHER WAS DIFFERENT

NOPE.

HE CONFESSED TO HER AND WAS WAITING FOR AN ANSWER.

KOMAI-KUN IS RUKA'S BOYFRIEND, NO?

THAT CAN'T BE RIGHT.

UNTIL SHE SETTLED THAT SHE COULDN'T GIVE HIM AN ANSWER.

!

RUKA-SAN HAS SOME GUY SHE CAN'T FORGET ABOUT.

IT CAN'T BE!

HUH?

I MEAN ...

THAT'S WHY...

.....

THAT WAS YOU, TSUCCHI?

THE GUY SHE CAN'T FORGET ABOUT_

IT PROBABLY WAS_

NOW IT ALL MAKES SENSE

I SEE

MY BROTHER THOUGHT HE COULDN'T WIN AGAINST YOU.

SO HE RAN AWAY TO SHIMAZU-SAN.

THAT'S SO LIKE HIM. IT MAKES ME WANT TO CRY.

SO IN OTHER WORDS,

KOHAN-KUN CHOSE TO LOSE BY DEFAULT.

END OF VOLUME 5

「カタコイ」

katakoi

SPECIAL ONESHOT

MY EYES WOULD FOLLOW HER AROUND.

WHEN I REALIZED IT,

KOMAI!

YOUR YOUNGER BROTHER IS HERE TO SEE YOU.

3-7

I'M TELLING YOU NOW,

I HAVE NO MONEY.

NO WAY IT'S NOT FOR THAT.

INTRODUCE ME TO...

NAGISA SHIMAZU.

3-7

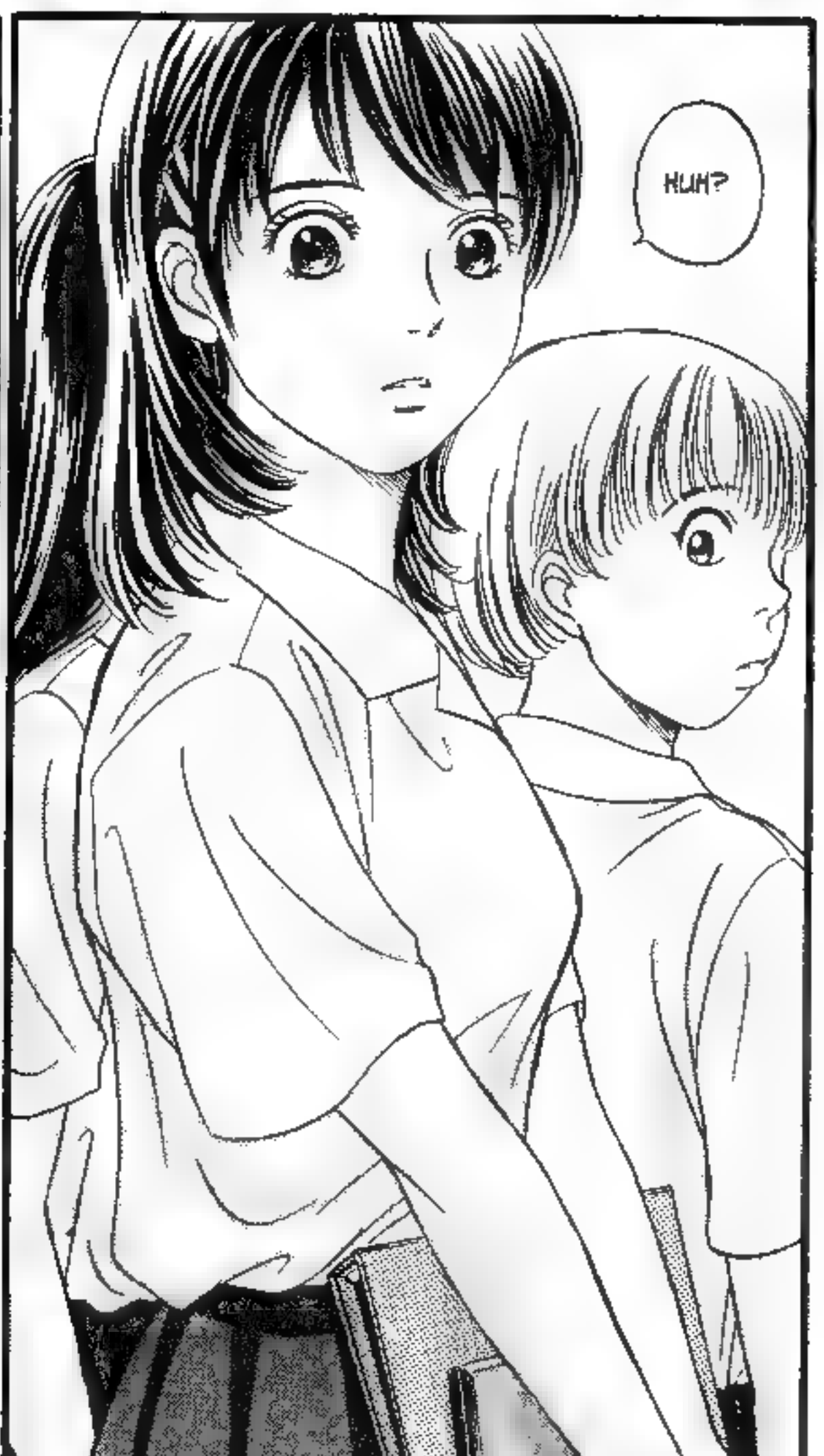
I CAN'T BELIEVE AMONG THE TOP 20 CANDIDATES SHE'S THE ONLY ONE I HAVEN'T CHECKED OUT.

RIGHT NOW THE FRESHMEN GUYS ARE TALLYING VOTES FOR THE "HOTTEST GIRLS IN SCHOOL RANKINGS".

カタコイ

HUH?
NAGISA SHIMAZU ISN'T IN THIS CLASS?
GET OUT...
3-7

OH!
IS THAT HER!?


HUH?

!!

THANKS FOR TAKING CARE OF MY BROTHER.

ぺこり

HELLO!

ちがう

SHE WAS IN THE SAME MIDDLE SCHOOL AS US.

OOH!

HEY!

LET'S SEE YOUR GRADUATION ALBUM!

DON'T LOOK THROUGH IT WITHOUT PERMISSION!

小西 由実

島津 なぎさ

羽藤 麻

……

……

IT'S BEEN 3 YEARS,

SERIOUSLY! HIS LITTLE BROTHER IS CUTE!

FOR REAL HIS BROTHER? THEY LOOK NOTHING ALIKE

SINCE OUR EYES HAVE MET.

AND SHE HAS SAID MY NAME.

WE'VE BEEN IN THE SAME CLASS TWICE ALREADY. AS WELL AS THIS YEAR.

WE BARELY TALK SO I DON'T KNOW MUCH ABOUT HER.

SINCE YOU WERE IN THE SAME CLASS SENIOR YEAR IN MIDDLE SCHOOL, YOU SHOULD KNOW A LOT ABOUT HER, RIGHT?

WHAT KIND OF GIRL WAS SHE?

MIND YOUR BUSINESS!

YOU COULD HAVE GOTTEN WITH HER AT THIS POINT IN TIME, BRO.

"WHY? I'LL JUST THROW IT OUT EVENTUALLY ANYWAY."

"SURE...BUT WHY DON'T YOU BUY IT YOURSELF FROM TIME TO TIME?"

"AH IS THAT THIS WEEK'S ISSUE? CAN I HAVE IT AFTER YOU'RE DONE READING IT?"

I DON'T WANT TO HEAR THAT FROM YOU!

IT'S ABNORMAL HOW YOU SPEND ALL YOUR TIME CHASING GIRLS!!

BRO, YOU WASTED YOUR YOUTH.

DO YOU HAVE A BOYFRIEND?

.....

I HEARD THAT YOU HAVE A GIRLFRIEND FROM ANOTHER SCHOOL.

WHY ARE YOU ASKING ME THAT?

THAT IS THAT THIS IS THIS.

LIKE I SAID WHAT'S UP WITH THIS!

OH THE OLDER KOMAI.

HIM AGAIN ...!

WHICH IS YOUR FAVORITE TYPE OF GUY?

WHICH TYPE DO YOU DISLIKE THE MOST?

LET'S CUT TO THE CHASE!

SO THAT'S WHY.

WHAT THE HELL IS THAT PUNK DOING!!

ハラハラハラ

WHAT IS HE TELLING HER!

But it's off the record

I'LL TELL YOU THIS MUCH.

THAT'S DESPICABLE ...

RANKING GIRLS ONLY BY THEIR LOOKS_

MY BROTHER? ...

THIS HAS NOTHING TO DO WITH KOMAL

THAT'S WHY I'M EXAMINING THEIR LOOKS AND PERSONALITY! I WANT TO MAKE MY VOTE COUNT! YOU KNOW!!

I KNOW RIGHT!?

SO THEN ...

I CAN'T BRING THAT UP.

SHE'S MOST LIKELY ALREADY FORGOTTEN ...

ABOUT SUCH A TRIVIAL THING.

HMM...

I...

SHOULD I TALK TO HER ABOUT THAT?

HE HAS PEAKED ALREADY.

HE HAS NO INTEREST IN SEX, LOVE, OR GIRLS!

HE RETIRED BEFORE EVEN MAKING HIS DEBUT!

CAN'T BELIEVE SHE'S STILL SINGLE.

HER BEAUTY IS NOT LIKE BREATHTAKING OR ANYTHING,

BUT MORE LIKE AN UNPOLISHED DIAMOND RIGHT?

ASK AGAIN WHEN YOU PAY ME BACK FOR LAST MONTH.

Brother dearest ♡

THEN LEND ME MONEY. ♡

OH MY, ARE ALL SENIOR GUYS BLIND OR SOMETHING? WHAT THE HELL ARE THEY DOING?

WHERE ARE YOU GOING?

LIBRARY!

I'M STUDYING! I HAVE ENTRANCE EXAMS COMING UP!!

IF YOU HAVE NOTHING BETTER TO DO, GO HANG OUT WITH YOUR GIRLFRIEND!

PHEW
...!

I gotta buy a juice

I REALIZED THAT BEFORE ANYONE ELSE.

I ALREADY KNOW THAT SHE IS "PRETTY".

JEEZ
...

Damn it's so hot

BUT MORE LIKE AN UNPOLISHED DIAMOND RIGHT?

WHAT'S WITH HIM BRINGING THAT UP NOW?

HUH?

AH.

SHIMAZU!?

STUDY ROOM?

RIGHT NOW IT'S PACKED.

YOU SHOULD WAIT FOR THE TIME BEING.

AH.

YEAH.

IN THAT INSTANT... I DIDN'T EVEN RECOGNIZE HER...

I SEE.

CAFE

I'VE SEEN HER IN REGULAR CLOTHES ...

THIS IS FIRST TIME...

AH.

I FIGURED AS MUCH.

A LOT OF PEOPLE CAME FIRST THING THIS MORNING.

I-IS THAT SO?

THE FIRST TIME SHE'S TALKED NORMALLY WITH ME SINCE THAT TIME.

I MEAN ...

WHAT ABOUT YOU KOMAI?

MY ROOM DOESN'T HAVE AN AC SO IT SUCKS DURING THE SUMMER.

YOU TWO ARE REALLY NOTHING ALIKE.

ゾク。

SHIT!

MY VOICE IS TREM-BLING.

ドキ ドキ ドキ

M-MY B-BROTHER CAN BE SO ANNOYING SO...

IT HASN'T GOTTEN TO THAT POINT,

I-IT... SEEMS MY B-BROTHER HAS BEEN P-PESTERING YOU.. T-THAT IS...

"WOO-WOOO! THE BIRTH OF A COUPLE!"

"AREN'T KOMAI AND SHIMAZU VERY SUSPICIOUS?"

"YEAH MAN TOTALLY!"

!

BUT I WOULD HATE FOR RUMORS TO START UP.

THERE'S NO WAY I'M IN LOVE WITH THAT MONCHICHI WITH GLASSES!!

Y-YOU...

DUMB ASSES!

HE'S TOTALLY IN LOVE WITH HIS NAGISA-CHAN! ♡

HE'S BLUSH-ING!

HE'S SO HAPPY!

WHO'D WANNA BE WITH SOMEONE LIKE HER...

SHE NEVER TALKED TO ME AGAIN.

SINCE THEN,

DATING OR NOT...

I,

I ALWAYS WANTED TO TAKE THAT BACK.

I WANT TO GO BACK TO HOW THINGS WERE BEFORE.

カタコイ

OK THANKS.

OH.

I'LL BE GOING NOW.

WELL...

STILL SHE'S GOTTEN MORE AND MORE BEAUTIFUL.

へたり

AND I KEEP SAYING LESS AND LESS...

SO LAME!

SHIMAZU-SAANNN!

AH! SHIMAZU-SAN!

AFTER HE SHOWED UP...

SHIMAZU-SAN! ♡

ON THE OTHER HAND,

So then: So then: Get this!

RETARD! DON'T YOU REALIZE SHE'S NOT INTERESTED!

WHY?

I'll be fine

That looks like a BIG problem.

BUT ...

COMPARED TO HIM...

飲食・携帯は禁止です。
学習室での

WHY ARE WE SO DIFFERENT?

ハコレ…

S-SU…

S'UP…

))))))))))))))

I SAVED YOU A SEAT KOMAI.

AH.

THANKS.

NO PROB.

IT'LL BE A BIG HELP IF YOU SIT THERE.

.....

FROM TIME TO TIME SOME WEIRDOES WILL COME TO HIT ON ME.

WHEN I HAD LUNCH I COULDN'T EVEN CHANGE MY BOOKS.

EVEN WHEN I GO TO THE BATHROOM.

I SEE.

SO THAT'S WHY...

BOO HOO HOO ...

THE PART OF ME THAT WAS HAPPY IS SAD NOW...

ドキ ドキ ドキ ドキ ドキ

COULD I SUDDENLY BRING UP THAT THING FROM BEFORE?

NO, SHOULD I JUST LET IT GO...?

WHAT SHOULD I DO...?

WHAT SHOULD I TALK ABOUT ...?

はっ!

THAT MEANS WE MIGHT GO HOME TOGETHER AT LEAST HALFWAY!?

HOLD UP?

I WASTED MY TIME WITHOUT SAYING A WORD...

I'LL BE GOING NOW.

I KEPT WORRY-ING,

UP UNTIL 30 MINS. BEFORE THEY CLOSED UP.

BUT I WAS LEFT WITH A TINY BIT OF HOPE.

YEA ...

ARE YOU COMING TOMORROW AS WELL?

BRO! BRO!

THAT MEANS SHE DOESN'T WANT TO GO HOME TOGETHER...

IF TOMORROW SHE SAYS, "I'LL GO ON AHEAD" AGAIN,

WHERE DO WE KEEP THE FIRST AID KIT?

I'M FINE. I GOT A CUT ON MY FOREHEAD

WHY ARE YOU BLEEDING!? OH NO! OH NO!

W-WHAT HAPPEN-ED!?

!!

SO I WAS BREAKING IT OFF MY GIRLFRIEND.

IT WAS SO I CAN SERIOUSLY PURSUE SHIMAZU-SAN.

THAT BREAK UP STORY, YOU CAN'T BE...

I SAID "YOU CAN HIT ME IF YOU WANT".

THEN I WENT TO HUG HER SHE HIT ME WITH HER BAG.

OUCH

YOU'RE ONLY AFTER HER LOOKS!

DON'T BOTHER A STUDENT ABOUT TO TAKE ENTRANCE EXAMS WITH THOSE HALF ASSED FEELINGS!

IT'LL BE A NUISANCE FOR HER!

TIME HAS NOTHING TO DO WITH IT

OH YES IT DOES!!

HUH!?

YOU JUST MET HER RECENTLY WHAT THE HELL YOU TAKING ABOUT SERIOUSLY GOING AFTER HER!!

PFFFT!

IT'S BECAUSE YOU ARE HARDHEADED YOU NEVER HAD A GIRL IN 18 YEARS!

NUISANCE OR NOT,

THAT'S FOR HER TO DECIDE.

WHETHER I'M HALF ASSING THINGS OR SERIOUS,

IT ISN'T SOMETHING FOR YOU TO DECIDE, BRO.

THAT PUNK--!

I HAVE JUST BEEN...

WATCH-ING HER ...

ふはは っ

I'VE WATCHED HER SLOWLY CHANGE.

FROM THE BEGINNING UNTIL NOW ...

IT'S BEEN 3 YEARS!?

I'VE HAD EYES FOR HER ONLY IN THOSE 3 YEARS!!

I'M GOING TO CALL IT A DAY.

KOMA?

WAIT...

HEY!

.....

ｶﾁｬ

ｶﾁｬ

AFTER 3 YEARS,

THINGS WILL OBVIOU-SLY CHANGE.

I DON'T KNOW ANYTHING ...

ABOUT THE PRESENT SHIMAZU.

AM I ANY DIFFERENT FROM THE OTHERS THAT HAVE FALLEN ONLY FOR HER LOOKS?

YOU FORGOT THIS

…?

AH.

THANKS …

WHERE IS SHE …

YE-

YEAH …

IT'S YOUR UMBRELLA SO COME UNDER IT.

IS THIS JUST ON A WHIM?

WHAT IS SHE DOING?

I MEAN IS THIS…

IF ALL I DO IS SIT IDLE AND OVERTHINK THINGS,

AM I GOING JUST WATCH IN SILENCE AS SOMEONE SNATCHES HER AWAY!?

NO. HOLD UP

SHE COULD JUST BE TRYING TO TEASE ME_

IS THAT HOW YOU PLAN ON RUNNING AWAY AGAIN?

THIS IS IDEAL CHANCE TO CONFESS!?

YOU'RE THE SAME AS ALWAYS KOMAI.

IT SHOULD STOP BY THE TIME YOU GET HOME.

SINCE I DON'T HAVE ONE.

I'LL WALK YOU TO THE BUS STOP THEN LET ME BORROW IT.

YOU CHECKED THE FORE-CAST,

YOU EVEN BRING AN UMBRELLA

ぷぷっ

YOU HAVEN'T CHANGED THAT AT "MY PACE" WAY OF DOING THINGS EITHER.

YOU TOO SHIMA-ZU...

I REMEMBER HOW YOU WOULD ALWAYS LEAVE IT BEHIND.

I,

ALWAYS ...

WANTED TO TELL YOU THAT.

IT MIGHT HAVE BEEN JUST THAT.

THAT PART OF YOU,

ALONG WITH EVERYTHING ELSE.

I'VE ALWAYS LOVED THAT ABOUT YOU.

I'VE PROBABLY JUST BEEN IN LOVE WITH A LOVE THAT ALREADY ENDED.

ME TOO.

I LOVED YOU KOMA!.

I'M SURE,

YEAH ...

LOOK! IT STOPPED RAINING!

AH!

FROM NOW ON ALWAYS,

WITHOUT A REASON ...

南公園

I'LL KEEP BEING IN LOVE WITH HER.

I...

RIGHT NOW,

I'M IN LOVE WITH SOMEONE ELSE.

.....

YEAH, YEAH.

JUST LIKE I SAID!

OK

WELL, I'LL TAKE MY LEAVE HERE.

RIGHT NOW,

YOU STILL HAVE ME AS INSURANCE IN CASE IT DOESN'T WORK OUT

WAIT 3 YEARS!

THAT'S IMPOS-SIBLE.

THEN WHY DON'T YOU CONFESS TO HIM!

DEFINITELY NOT YOUR LITTLE BROTHER.

NO WAY NOT MY...!?

SIMPLY PUT, LIKE YOU HE'S THE TYPE THAT WON'T CONFESS TO ME.

SO I'M WONDERING WHAT I SHOULD DO.

ALRIGHT

I WON'T USE THAT INSURANCE,

BUT I'LL ALWAYS CHERISH IT.

THANKS KOMAI.

IT MADE ME,

REALLY HAPPY ...

カタコイ

AFTER THAT SHIMAZU ACQUIRED HER GUY.

THE YOUNGER KOMAI MOVED ON TO HIS NEXT TARGET.

AND I'M COMPLETELY "ALONE".

THE "UNREQUITED LOVE" I'VE BEEN SIM-MERING OVER FOR 3 YEARS ...

"ENDS" WITH "MUTUAL FEELINGS".

RADIANTLY ALONE...

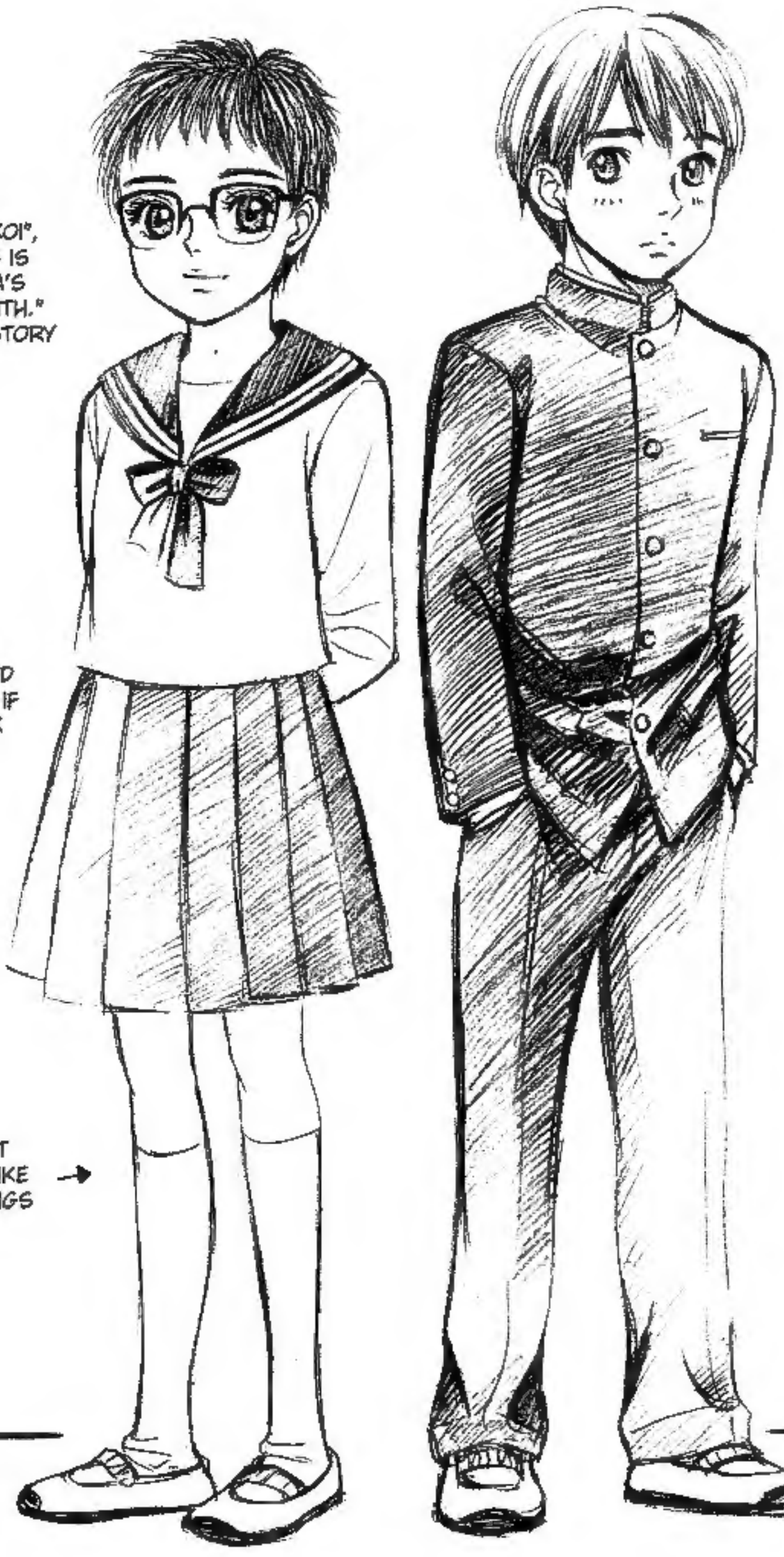
Postscript.

"KATAKOI" WAS SPAWNED FROM THE PRESENT "HETAKOI". IT FEATURED AN EXTREMELY PLAIN PROTAGONIST. I WAS WORRIED WHETHER OR NOT READERS WOULD ENJOY A STORY WITHOUT A SEXY BEGINNING. EXPERIMENTALLY (?) I TRIED DRAWING A ONESHOT WITH NO SEX ELEMENT. THIS IS THE FIRST TIME I'VE DRAWN SOMETHING FOR YOUNG JUMP WITHOUT BOOBS, BUTTS, OR PANTY SHOTS. HOWEVER IT WAS WELL RECEIVED IN TERMS OF POPULARITY.

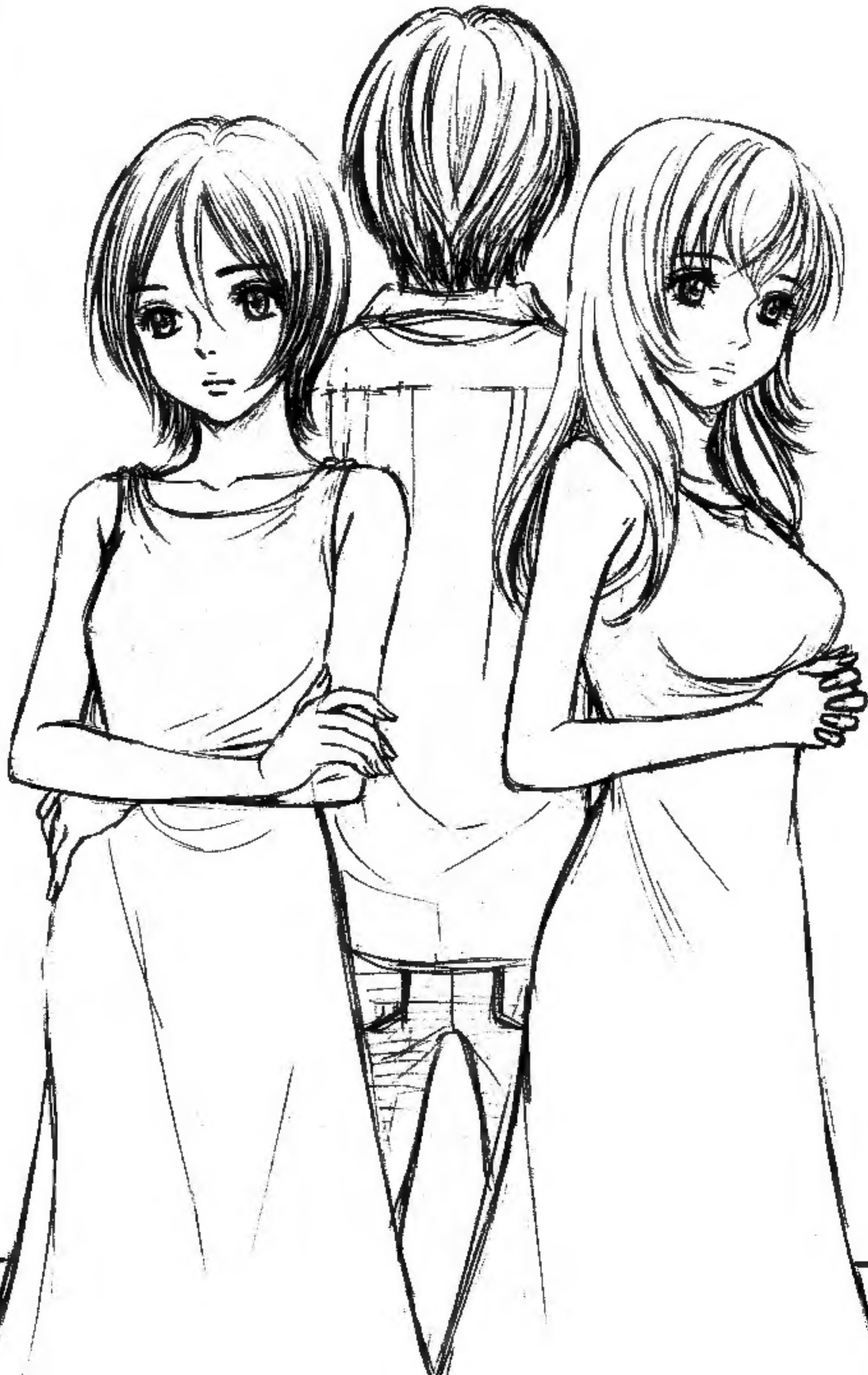
WHILE WORKING ON "KATAKOI", I MADE UP MY MIND. "THIS IS THE GIRL I WANT SHIZUKA'S FIRST EXPERIENCE TO BE WITH." THAT IS WHY THE PRESENT STORY DEVELOPED THIS WAY.

SPEAKING OF WHICH, TRUTH IS ON THE FIRST DOUBLE PAGE SPREAD IN CHAPTER 1 I SECRETLY ADDED NAGISA AS WELL. I WONDER IF ANYONE NOTICED. GO CHECK IT OUT.

WHO WOULD HAVE THOUGHT THESE TWO WOULD END UP LIKE THAT? I WONDER WHERE THINGS WILL GO FROM HERE. →



WHEN VOLUME 4 WAS GOING ON SALE I RECEIVED A "BATH BUCKET SET"
AS A PRESENT, ON IT WAS THE RESULT OF A RECENT CHARACTER POPULARITY POLL.
RUKA RANKED NUMBER 1, FOLLOWED BY SHIZUKA AT 2, AND NAGISA AT 3.
AS I THOUGHT THE HEROINE IS PRETTY POPULAR SINCE SHE WON.
RANKS 4 AND BELOW SEEMED TO BE ALL ABOUT THE SAME. BY THE WAY
THE AUTHORESS' FAVORITE IS KOTONO-CHIN. WELL SEE YOU AGAIN.



End.

ヘタコイ

hetakoi

Hobo-1

5

NAKANO JUNKO

中野純子